

FINANCIAL TIMES



Weekend FT

Jerusalem - the eternally divided city

Greenland's welcome to the real world

My beautiful Polish launderette

SECTION II

World Business Newspaper http://www.ft.com

WEEKEND SEPTEMBER 28/SEPTEMBER 29 1996

Afghan rebels take Kabul and declare an Islamic state



Afghanistan was declared a "complete" Islamic state by leaders of the Taliban Islamic militia who captured the capital, Kabul, after two weeks of military advances. The militia named a six-member council to run the country and underlined their control of the city by killing ex-president Najibullah (left), the country's last communist leader, and his brother. Page 24

Smokers sue UK cigarette makers: Imperial Tobacco and Gallaher, producers of 80 per cent of the cigarettes sold in the UK, are being sued by a group of 40 former smokers who have entered an historical "no win, no fee" arrangement with their lawyers. Page 24

Bosnian poll recount rejected: International organisers of the Bosnian elections rejected a demand for a recount by the tribunal it had appointed to ensure fair play in the poll. Page 2

Japanese election date set: Japanese prime minister Ryutaro Hashimoto ended months of uncertainty by dissolving parliament and calling a general election for October 20. Page 3

G7 to consider debt relief: The Paris Club of bilateral creditors has referred the question of contributions toward a debt relief plan for poor countries to a Group of Seven meeting in Washington today after failing to reach an agreement. Page 2

Ousted Thai PM calls surprise poll: Thai prime minister Banharn Silpa-archa, forced by key allies to declare that he would quit by today, called fresh elections on November 17. Page 3

Cathay Pacific managing director Rod Eddington has resigned from the Hong Kong carrier to head Ansett Australia, the Australian airline 50 per cent owned by a unit of Rupert Murdoch's News Corp. Page 5

Spending cuts in Spanish budget: The Spanish government approved a budget which plans to cut Ptas90bn (\$6.3bn) off previous spending targets and aims to lower next year's public deficit to 3 per cent, the qualification target for joining the European single currency in 1999. Page 2, Lex, Page 24

Two held in VW spy case: Two German men were held by police after one confessed to planting a camera at the test track of carmaker Volkswagen and sold photographs of four of the company's prototypes to car industry publications.

London stocks up in cautious trade: London stocks closed up 13.2 points with the FT-SE 100 at 3,946.4, slightly down from its daily high after late selling of gilts and a weak opening on Wall Street. UK markets remained wary of talk of overvaluation in the US and elsewhere. In a week in which interest rates remained unchanged in the US and UK after monetary policy meetings, the FT-SE 100 fell 17.7 points. Page 21; World stocks, Page 19; Markets, Weekend Page XXIV

Hill signs for Arrows: Britain's Damon Hill, one point away from securing the Formula One drivers' championship, has signed for next season with the TWI. Arrows team run by former driver Tom Walkinshaw.

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European leaders call for talks to resume as death toll rises in Middle East

Peace plea as Israelis shoot down protesters

By Judy Dempsey in Jerusalem

Israeli troops yesterday shot dead three Palestinians on Jerusalem's Temple Mount as Britain, France and Germany called for an immediate resumption of the peace negotiations between Mr Benjamin Netanyahu, the Israeli prime minister, and Mr Yasir Arafat, president of the Palestinian Authority.

The Palestinians died after Israeli troops fired on youths who were throwing stones close to the Al-Aqsa mosque, Islam's third holiest site.

It was the third successive day of fighting between Israeli troops, young Palestinians and armed Palestinian police which has already claimed the lives of 53 Palestinians and 14 Israelis.

Mr Netanyahu placed the burden on Mr Arafat to stop the violence. "He must personally intervene and stop the incitement," he told a news conference.

He insisted he was prepared to resume the peace negotiations but would not say when. "I am telling him [Arafat] our hand is stretched out in peace."

Mr Arafat yesterday ordered his 30,000-strong paramilitary police to shoot only in self-defence, and the Voice of Palestine, the Palestinians' official radio, called for peaceful demonstrations.

But the fighting spread to the northern West Bank at Jenin, and to Palestinian towns on the Israeli border at Tulkeram and Qalqilia, as well as resuming in the Gaza Strip. Inside Israel itself, the nearly 1m strong Israeli Arab population staged strikes and demonstrations in sympathy with their Palestinian brethren.

Mr Amnon Shahak, the



Prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu (right), with defence minister Yitzhak Mordechai, centre, and chief of staff Amnon Shahak, yesterday calls a Jerusalem press conference Israel will negotiate with the Palestinians once the current violence has ended.

Israeli army commander, warned he would use tanks and armoured personnel carriers where "it was necessary" to quell the fighting.

Mr Netanyahu and Mr Arafat have not yet agreed when or where to meet or under what conditions, stimulating international fears that the peace process was rapidly unravelling. Britain, France and Germany sent almost identical letters to both leaders. Mr John Major, the British prime minister, Mr Jacques

Chirac, the French president and Mr Helmut Kohl, the German Chancellor, appealed for calm.

"We are sending you a joint, solemn appeal to make the necessary calming gestures," the letters said. They also called for "an immediate resumption of negotiations at the highest level" as well as the full implementation of agreements reached in the 1995 Israeli-Palestinian Interim Agreement on the West Bank and Gaza.

Mr Netanyahu said he was still considering an invitation from Mr Hosni Mubarak, the president of Egypt, to host a meeting in Cairo. "There was an invitation from president Mubarak. I did not rule it out. I am prepared to consider it. There will be a meeting," he added.

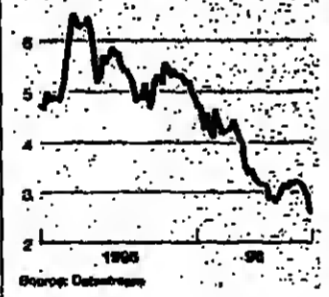
In Washington, Mr Bill Clinton, the US president who is facing re-election in November, refrained from criticising Israel. In New York, Mr Warren Christopher, US secretary

of state, was planning to meet Israeli, Egyptian and Syrian foreign ministers in a bid to keep the peace process afloat. President Hafez al-Assad, the Syrian president, in an interview with CNN, warned of a slide into war if negotiations did not resume between Israel and Syria on a return of the Golan Heights.

Outraged Arab world, Page 3; Men In The News, Page 8; Eternal Divide, Weekend FT Page 1

Confidence restored

Italian 10-year treasury yield drops over Germany's percentage point



Italian markets rise on budget moves

By Robert Graham in Rome, Andrew Hill in Milan and Richard Lapper in London

Italian markets rose strongly yesterday as the government prepared to approve a tough austerity budget for 1997.

The budget is designed to reduce Italy's public sector deficit close to 3 per cent of gross domestic product and has reinforced market optimism

that Italy could become a founding member of European monetary union in 1999.

The lira reached its highest level since 1994 against the D-Mark, closing in London at 988.7 to the German currency, compared with 1,001 overnight. In Milan, the Comit General stock market index gained 2.3 per cent to close at 633.25.

Yields on Italian 10-year bonds yesterday fell by about a

fifth of a percentage point to yield 2 1/2 per cent of GDP next year.

Since then the slowdown in the domestic economy has caused a shortfall in treasury receipts of some 14,000bn, but the government has also decided it must seek to comply with Maastricht within the 1997 deadline.

Mr Romano Prodi, prime minister, said the first phase of

would have reduced the deficit to 4.5 per cent of GDP next year.

Mr Prodi has been obliged to place more emphasis on new

the budget would total 138,000bn-137,000bn. A further 118,000bn would be raised early in the new year in the form of a "Maastricht" tax, he said. The tax would be applied to all except the poorest on a sliding scale of income.

Continued on Page 24 Lex, Page 24

French unions furious at record unemployment total

By David Buchan in Paris

France's jobless rate rose to a record 12.6 per cent in August, underlining slackness in the economy and fuelling union anger over unemployment and government budget cuts.

The unemployment rate, reported by the labour ministry yesterday, was 0.1 percentage points above last month's figure and a full point higher than a year ago.

This was despite the claim by President Jacques Chirac and Mr Alain Juppé, the prime minister, to have made job-creation their "priority of priorities".

The number of job-seekers rose by 36,500 in August, bringing the total to 3,085m and reversing a decline in

July. Mr Juppé yesterday made "a solemn appeal" to employers to hire more young people.

The prime minister has become a target of rising criticism, and his stock, even in his own gaullist RPR party, is falling as unemployment rises.

This week Mr Chirac gave him support by sending a message to RPR deputies at their party meeting in Deauville complaining of the virulence of some backbench attacks on Mr Juppé and calling for loyalty.

The Elysee denied a report in yesterday's pro-government newspaper Le Figaro claiming that Mr Juppé had insisted on the presidential message of support and even threatened to resign. But the prime

minister, who has called a vote of confidence in his economic policy at next Wednesday's start of the autumn parliamentary session, feels he has been betrayed by some RPR deputies.

One complained publicly this week about Mr Juppé's "dogmatism and clumsiness... leading the country towards insurmountable problems and unacceptable inequality".

Meanwhile, many of the main unions are unlikely to make any immediate protest to the government over unemployment and budget cuts because their attention is focused on the fight among themselves for the chair-

Continued on Page 24

Table with columns for Stock Market Indices, Sterling Rates, Dollar, and Gold. Includes FT-SE 100, DAX, Nikkei, and various bond yields.

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NEWS: INTERNATIONAL

New government's first annual budget seeks 3% public deficit

Spain slashes spending plan by \$6bn

By David White in Madrid

Spain's centre-right government yesterday approved its first annual budget, slashing Pta800bn (\$6.3bn) of previous spending plans...

Swedes eager to clarify Palme murder claim

By Hugh Carney in Stockholm

Swedish authorities were yesterday trying to assess whether a new claim of South African involvement in the 1986 murder of Olof Palme...

spy for the South African apartheid regime, had been involved in the assassination of Palme in an operation called 'Long Reach'.



Olof Palme: outspoken critic

Troops keep tense peace in Armenia

Tanks and troops enforced a tense calm in Yerevan, the Armenian capital, yesterday, a day after the government rounded up opposition figures following violent protests against the country's disputed election...



An Armenian soldier on duty in central Yerevan yesterday

Group of Seven to decide on contributions to initiative Paris Club split on debt relief

By Patti Waldmeir in Washington

The Paris Club of bilateral creditors has failed to agree on its contribution to a plan to relieve the debt of the poorest countries...

from the whole of the Paris Club, whose members outside the G7 do not oppose the 80 per cent figure.

that even 80 per cent relief would be insufficient for some countries.

IMF overdraft flexibility urged

By Robert Choto, Economics Editor, in Washington

Mr Philippe Maystadt, Belgian finance minister and chairman of the IMF's key ministerial committee, has urged industrial countries to show greater flexibility in expanding the IMF's overdraft facility for central banks.

reserves at relatively low interest rates. The Group of Seven industrial countries has argued for an issue of SDR16bn (\$28bn), allocated towards countries which have joined the Fund since they were last issued in 1981.

particular thinks his new proposal still goes too far. Mr Maystadt will also urge the committee not to include any specific reference to sales of IMF gold in the section of its communiqué which deals with financing the Fund's contribution to debt relief for poor countries.

Organisers of Bosnia poll spurn recount

By Paul White in Sarajevo and Laura Silber at the United Nations in New York

International organisers of the Bosnian elections yesterday rejected a demand for a recount by the tribunal it had appointed to ensure fair play in the poll.

OSCE officials have repeatedly revised the figures for the elections, including the number of people voting and the turnout.

By Monday the OSCE is likely to certify the election results, which confirmed in power the same leaders who waged war against each other for four years. It took a fortnight to tally the results - a recount would have delayed the first meeting of Bosnia's new three-man presidency, which could take place as early as Monday.

Kremlin attacks media over Yeltsin health

By Christia Freeland in Moscow

The Kremlin yesterday admitted that President Boris Yeltsin would be following a limited work schedule ahead of his planned heart surgery, but hit out at the western media for their intense scrutiny of the ailing Russian leader.

demanded by Kremlin doctors. Since his abrupt disappearance from public life at the end of June, Mr Yeltsin's health has become the dominant issue in Russian politics and has been doggedly pursued by the western media.

Banks holding 'virtually all' of Russia's debt to commercial creditors have approved a rescheduling deal negotiated last November, Christia Freeland reports from Moscow. The bankers' approval, announced in a joint statement by Russia and the commercial lenders, means that Moscow is

almost certain to clinch the crucial rescheduling agreement this autumn. A deal on the \$35bn Russia owes its London Club commercial creditors would boost foreign confidence in the country and could pave the way for Russia's first sovereign borrower later this year.

concealing his health problems during the crucial ballot. Mr Yeltsin's doctors, who include US cardiac surgeon Dr Michael DeBakey, offered additional details about the president's condition this week when they announced the decision to delay his operation.

Yeltsin's gastro-intestinal tract. The surgeon said that the president's kidneys and liver were functioning normally and that he had not suffered a stroke.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS DIGEST

Ramos cancels Subic Bay deal

Philippine President Fidel Ramos yesterday effectively cancelled the decision by Subic Bay Freeport to award the management of its privatised port to Hutchison Whampoa of Hong Kong.

Police halt Suu Kyi congress. Burmese security forces surrounded the home of democracy leader Ms Aung San Suu Kyi yesterday and detained 103 members of her National League for Democracy in order to prevent a party congress from taking place.

OECD dilemma on S Korea. Western governments are divided over whether South Korea can join the Paris-based Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development as a full member unless it improves legal rights for workers and trade unions.

Former Carrion chief jailed. Mr George Tan, former head of the Carrion group, once one of Hong Kong's 10 biggest companies, was yesterday jailed for three years, ending one of the colony's longest and most expensive fraud cases.

German engineering setback. New orders for the German engineering industry fell 18 per cent in August compared with a year earlier, the VDMA engineering industry association said yesterday after its survey of 1,200 larger engineering companies.

Maastricht boost for Irish. The Irish Congress of Trade Unions yesterday voted to negotiate a new social pact with industry and government. Delegates representing 500,000 workers voted to agree to discuss a new deal to replace the current Programme on Competitiveness and Work, under which unions accept wage restraint in return for tax cuts and a say in economic policy.

Algeria car bomb kills 15. Suspected Islamic fundamentalists detonated a car bomb yesterday at a busy market in Boufarik, near Algiers, killing 16 people and wounding 78. It was the second such attack in as many days and the worst to hit Algeria in weeks.

Genocide trial delayed again. The International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda yesterday postponed the trial of a Rwandan Hutu accused of genocide. In the second trial delay in three days, the tribunal court ruled Mr Jean Paul Akayesu's trial would resume on October 31.

Arabic text: مؤتمرات العمل

Surprise general election called after week of disarray in governing coalition

Thai PM ditches squabbling partners

By Ted Berdooke in Bangkok

Thailand's prime minister, Mr Banharn Silpa-archa, ended a week-long political stalemate yesterday by dissolving parliament and calling elections on November 17.

The decision surprised leaders of the six parties in the governing coalition, which has been in power for 14 months.

Last week the coalition parties, by threatening to vote against Mr Banharn at

the end of a bruising no-confidence debate, had solicited a promise from the prime minister to resign by today and name a new prime minister from within the coalition.

But Mr Banharn played different factions within the coalition against one another until they failed to reach an agreement on a new premier.

He then used this as an excuse to dissolve parliament, a move which had been urged by most prominent business leaders and

politicians. Thailand's armed forces also urged politicians to solve the crisis before they started calling for military intervention.

"A major factor in my decision was public opinion," Mr Banharn said. "If that is ignored it could be dangerous as people could lose faith in government."

The dissolution angered the prime minister's allies, who were not consulted by Mr Banharn.

Coalition parties, having had only one year to reap

the benefits of political office, wanted to avoid spending the huge sums of money that are traditionally lavished on Thai voters during an election.

Money will also play a big role over the next few weeks as a realignment of political parties is expected. With few policy differences, many sitting MPs who are considered safe bets for re-election auction themselves to the party offering the most.

Such bids are often made up of a combination of cash and the promise of a lucrative cabinet post if the party emerges as a partner in the next government - which is bound to be a fractious multi-party coalition again.

Only after such a realignment takes place will the real front-runners for the premiership emerge. But the Democrat party, leader of the opposition, is likely to benefit from the poorly performing economy and the poor image of the current coalition partners.

Mr Banharn named an interim cabinet where technocrats and civil servants dominate the economic portfolios, including Mr Chaiyawan Wimalawadi, deputy governor of the central bank, as the new finance minister.

The move, together with the dissolution, is likely to calm Thailand's jittery financial markets although, historically, election periods are inflationary because of the extra money circulating in the system.

istry, which organises the elections.

Mr Banharn named an interim cabinet where technocrats and civil servants dominate the economic portfolios, including Mr Chaiyawan Wimalawadi, deputy governor of the central bank, as the new finance minister.

Expatriate exodus leaves UAE short of workers

By Kaura Neji in Dubai

Hundreds of thousands of illegal expatriate workers in the United Arab Emirates are leaving the country before Monday, when imprisonment and heavy fines are introduced for workers without permits.

Thousands have besieged the Indian, Pakistani, and Bangladeshi embassies for temporary travel documents.

Many of them, unable to afford the air fare, have been offered free tickets by business and community leaders.

But many more have no money to leave. "My employer, knowing that I am staying illegally, has refused to pay my three months' wages," said one worker outside the Indian consulate in Dubai trying to get travel documents and tickets for himself and a family of four.

At the airport, thousands of passengers are queuing round the clock at all counters to get a seat on the flights that sometimes do not materialise.

Temperatures are running high and sometimes shouting breaks out between the airport authorities and passengers who have lost all their belongings with them.

But, given the rush of passengers, the airport authorities seem to be coping well.

The embassies of India, Bangladesh, and Pakistan - where most of the illegal workers come from - as well as other Asian and Middle Eastern countries have organised lines of special flights every day so that their nationals can leave before the end of September.

"I am concerned that we may not be able to pick up all the people that we need to pick-up in the next few days," said Mr Ziaus Shams

Chowdhury, the Bangladesh ambassador to the UAE. Diplomats from a number of Asian countries have made informal requests for an extension of the deadline but so far there has been no response.

The mass exodus of illegal workers has created a bonanza for airlines, which are laying on extra flights to Asian destinations, while bigger commercial airlines are re-routing some of their flights in order to make a stop at one of the main airports in the UAE.

The UAE government has declined to provide any explanation for the introduction of the law. Officials say the law is designed to "streamline" the labour force. They also say security of the country, as many of the illegal workers have no fixed addresses and are not easily traceable.

Most of the workers who are leaving have been engaged in construction work, or other menial jobs.

There is no accurate figure of either the total numbers affected, or the number of workers who have already left. The Asian embassies have so far issued temporary travel documents to about 100,000 workers. This is about 5 per cent of the UAE population.

Their displacement is almost certain to have an impact on the economy here. Their absence will almost certainly push up the cost of labour, one expatriate said, mentioning his garden and his cleaner were about to leave.

The UAE nationals, who enjoy one of the highest per capita incomes in the world, use expatriates for a variety of jobs including catering, farming, fishing, driving, and even running civil and public services.

Hashimoto calls general election

By William Dawkins in Tokyo

Mr Ryutaro Hashimoto, the Japanese prime minister, yesterday dissolved parliament and called a general election for October 20.

His long-awaited decision, ending months of uncertainty overshadowing policy-making, was greeted with relief by business leaders.

They called on Japan's fragmented political parties to use the election campaign to clarify their opaque visions of Japan's future after five years of economic stagnation, the longest slowdown in 60 years.

Mr Kosaku Inaba, chairman of Japan's chamber of commerce and industry, called on politicians to "present to the nation blueprints of what they expect to achieve and the future direction of the country."

Mr Hashimoto, however, took a cautious line yesterday and suggested that continuity would be the campaign theme of his Liberal Democratic party. "We are heading for a storm of

reform and our politics, administration and social system must weather it," he said.

This will be the first election since the LDP lost its majority three years ago. Its defeat began a period of shaky coalitions, following nearly four decades of stable single-party government, seen by many as a factor in Japan's postwar economic success. The LDP pledged yesterday to restore the old political order.

This is also the first Japanese election to be held under a new electoral system, designed to shift more seats from rural areas to cities, where the pressure for change is strongest, and to curb political corruption.

Mr Hashimoto is hoping to rehabilitate the LDF, capitalising on the feelgood factor of a gentle economic recovery and his recent success in resolving a dispute with the island of Okinawa over unpopular US military bases there.

Opinion polls suggest that the LDF, with about 30 per cent support, will again fall



Mr Hashimoto raises a fist in the Diet yesterday after calling an election he hopes will strengthen his grip on power.

short of a majority. But it will probably command more cabinet seats in the next coalition, thanks to the fragmentation of its main rivals.

The result could, however, bring surprises. The electorate is weary and sceptical of the political establishment; more than half of voters say they support no party in particular. This is especially

true in the newly influential big cities, hit by growing youth unemployment and growing awareness of cramped conditions and high prices.

One likely beneficiary of a disenchanted electorate will be a new group, the Democratic party, led by Mr Yukio Hatoyama and Mr Naoto Kan, the popular health minister, who are promising to

curb the powerful bureaucracy and breathe fresh air into an LDP-dominated government. They could both end up with seats in the next government.

Another surprise could be the Japan Communist party, which has, very unusually, won two mayoral elections in the past six months.

Japanese consumer prices remain broadly stable, further evidence of the fragility of economic recovery, according to figures published yesterday.

Although the consumer price index fell sharply from July to August - largely the result of very weak demand for fresh food following an outbreak of food poisoning - they were 0.2 per cent higher than a year earlier.

Outraged Arab world will find it difficult to sit on its hands

David Gardner, Middle East Editor, assesses the reaction in Arab capitals as the peace process falls apart

Three days of open warfare across the West Bank between Israeli troops and Palestinian police, sparked by Israel's decision to open a tunnel under Temple Mount, the third holiest shrine in Islam, have put Arab leaders on the spot.

Since the election in May of Mr Benjamin Netanyahu, relations between Israel and its Arab neighbours have sunk to their lowest point since the Middle East peace process began five years ago.

Arab governments unanimously blame the violence on Israel, say it puts at risk hopes of peace in the region, and call on one another to come up with a robust and coherent response. But so far they have done little except issue declarations.

Egypt's President Hosni Mubarak of Israel was last night trying to get agreement on a three-way summit between himself, Mr Netanyahu, and Mr Yasser Arafat, the Palestinian leader. In the Arab view, having signed a peace treaty in 1979 - in recent weeks have consisted of little more than a slanging match. Mr Amr Mousa, Egyptian foreign minister, told a leading Arabic newspaper before the West Bank exploded this week: "Israel wants security without there being a Palestinian state or even effective self-rule [in the West Bank and Gaza], without a full withdrawal from the Golan Heights, which Syria wants back in return for peace. And then he [Mr Netanyahu] wants peace? This is obviously nonsense. Anyone who believes this is either ignorant or insane."

Egypt has said Israel must first fulfil its international commitments to withdraw troops from Palestinian land and keep to the agreed peace negotiations timetable if Cairo is to go ahead with hosting the third Middle East economic summit in November, or mainly US-backed device to underpin the peace process with peace dividends.

Jordan too, which made peace with Israel in 1994 and has committed itself strategically to a shared economic



An injured man is taken from Al Aqsa mosque after Israeli police fired on a crowd

future with its neighbour, is furious with Israel. Crown Prince Hassan, the heir to King Hussein, this week cancelled a visit to Israel intended to look at possible joint ventures. He described the Israeli decision to open the tunnel as "a provocation to Arab and Moslem feelings around the world."

With such a reaction from Jordan, Israel's warmest Arab partner, it takes little to imagine the response from the Syrians, who have steered Arab sentiment firmly against Mr Netanyahu's decision to abandon the "land-for-peace" formula underpinning regional detente. Syrian government newspapers have welcomed the new initiative - the 1987-93 Palestinian revolt against Israeli occupation which catalysed the 1993 Oslo peace accord with Mr Arafat. But so too, in differing measure, have newspapers and governments throughout the Arab world.

Syria now wants to press for the suspension of Arab links to Israel. This was threatened at June's Arab summit in Cairo, unless Mr Netanyahu was prepared to continue the negotiations of his Labour predecessors on the return of the Golan, and a Palestinian state with occupied Arab east Jerusalem as its capital.

Because the Netanyahu government is perceived to

have interfered with Jerusalem's Holy Places, and it is bulldozing ahead with the enclosure of Arab Jerusalem by completing an encircling wall of Jewish settlements on Arab land, Arab regimes will find it difficult to sit on their hands. From Riyadh to Algiers, Amman to Damascus, or Cairo to Rabat, all regional governments fear their legitimacy being undermined by Islamic fundamentalists, who will demand a response to any perceived violation of the Moslem sanctuary in Jerusalem.

Moreover, Arab governments resent Israel's ability to harvest the fruits of peace without delivering fully on its commitments. Diplomatic recognition of Israel, and its trade, have doubled in the past four years, with Moslem countries like Indonesia and Malaysia among its biggest new markets.

The days of the "oil weapon" have long gone, and the Arabs have dismantled their boycott of those doing business with Israel. But unless the peace process is set rapidly back on track, the anything but limited option but to pare down its own links with Israel, and do its diplomatic best to work against the Israeli economy's export-led expansion - a threat Israel's business community has warned of publicly.

WEEKEND BUSINESS

A large advertisement section containing various business opportunities, software listings, and financial services. It includes sections for 'BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES', 'BUSINESS TELECOMMUNICATIONS', 'BUSINESSES FOR SALE', 'HOME & OFFICE SOFTWARE', and 'REAL-TIME & END-OF-DAY TECHNICAL ANALYSIS SOFTWARE'. It also features contact information for PAUL MEAKINS and KARL LOYNTON.

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COMMENT & ANALYSIS

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Men in the News • Benjamin Netanyahu and Yassir Arafat

Economics of another world

Vietnam. Even 21 years after the ending of the war there, the name still resonates in the conscience of the west. This week, it achieved a conspicuous difference in its standing in the International Monetary Fund's latest World Economic Outlook, as the country expected to achieve the highest growth in the world.

Even though Vietnam's economy is likely to expand by 9.5 per cent this year, and will have grown by 30 per cent over the last three years, it remains a poor country with huge problems. However, its achievement illustrates remarkable changes which have been taking place in the world economy, particularly among the less developed and the former communist countries.

For example, in 1975, the fateful year in which America's GIs came home from Saigon, the industrial world was facing the dismal conjunction of an average annual inflation rate of 13 per cent and economic stagnation. Who then believed that the countries swallowed into the communist maw - in eastern Europe as well as the far east - could ever emerge as vigorous market economies?

Of course, huge problems remain to be overcome. However, in its rather spare prose, the IMF explains that, despite the dangers, things are getting decisively better. "In the countries in transition (those emerging from communism), economic activity overall is projected to stabilise in 1996 after five years of decline. Eight countries are expected to register growth of 5 per cent or more. Further gains in reducing inflation are also projected."

per cent this year, while cutting inflation from an annual rate of nearly 50 per cent to 13 per cent, is at least partly due to the institutions' efforts to foster sensible policies.

The reduction of inflation has been especially impressive in Latin America, where the annual rate has fallen from more than 200 per cent in 1994 to an expected 20 per cent this year, associated with a modest acceleration of economic growth to 3 per cent. The countries of Africa have also made progress against inflation while raising average growth to 5 per cent.

Harsh reforms

It would be wrong to take too Panglossian a view of this progress. In many countries it still needs to be consolidated by painful reforms. And some countries remain in poor shape. In Russia, for example, the tumult which goes by the name of economy is only expected to get worse less quickly this year.

For the world as a whole, however, the outlook is cheerful. Inflation remains highly subdued in the industrial countries and under better control elsewhere. As the Fund points out, low inflation does not guarantee economic health, but high inflation makes an economy susceptible to ailments. On present policies, the IMF thinks inflation will continue to be subdued in the developing and former communist groups. Increasing output in these countries will push up the world's economic growth rate to over 4 per cent in the next five years. This is impressively better than the 3 per cent achieved in the 1980s and '90s - or the 2.6 per cent expected from the advanced countries.

If such trends continue, the world will indeed become a different place. In less than a decade, the total output of the developing economies will have overtaken that of developed countries. High inflation might be a thing of the past. The IMF points out that sustained inflation is a relatively modern phenomenon. If it seemed in the mid-1970s almost impossible to tame, we now know that it can be done, and how.

Of course, low inflation and high average growth offer only distant hope to desperately poor people. Yet the IMF estimates that in 20 years the former communist countries could be as prosperous as developed countries are now. Far away? It is no more than the distance between now and the Vietnam war.

Necessary medicine

The Fund can be allowed to congratulate itself a little that the medicine which it has prescribed for the world in past decades is proving to work. It has suffered reverses and disappointments in several countries (and Vietnam made up its prescription without the IMF's help). Even so, reducing deficits, controlling inflation, abandoning price controls, substituting market freedoms for political controls - all measures which have attracted fierce resistance and scorn from the Fund's critics - are now paying off.

The Fund and the World Bank do not deserve all the credit, by any means. However, the fact that the developing countries as a whole are expected to continue steady growth of about 6

**M**r Benjamin Netanyahu, the prime minister of Israel and head of the right-wing Likud party, has been locked in emergency cabinet meetings since he cut short his visit to Germany on Thursday.

He has been briefed by the intelligence and security forces about the widespread violence in the West Bank and Gaza where armed Palestinians have clashed with Israeli defence forces leaving at least 60 people dead and thousands injured. He has been warned by the ultra-right parties in the coalition not to reward the Palestinians by making concessions to end the unrest. He has listened to his diplomats relaying the criticism over the violence from the Arab world, from Washington, Moscow and the European capitals.

For the first time since winning the elections last May when he defeated Mr Shimon Peres, head of the Labour party, Mr Netanyahu has had to listen. "Listening and taking advice were never Mr Netanyahu's strengths," says Mr Martin Kramer, head of the Dayan Centre for Middle East Studies in Jerusalem. "During his first 100 days in office he has cut himself off from the military, from the intelligence services and even from the cabinet."

"That attitude, adds Mr Kramer, was one of the main reasons contributing to the massive scale of unrest among the Palestinians. Mr Netanyahu did not want to listen. He may be paying a price which could unravel the peace process and perhaps cost the prime minister his political life.

The Israeli prime minister was yesterday coming under increasing pressure to resume negotiations with Mr Yassir Arafat, president of the Palestinian Authority. Mr John Major, British prime minister, Mr Helmut Kohl, the German Chancellor, and Mr Jacques Chirac, the French president, have sent a joint appeal asking for "an immediate resumption of talks at the highest level".

Mr Arafat, by contrast, has seen his position strengthened by the events of recent days. Mr Netanyahu had attempted to marginalise the Palestinian leader over the past three months, and criticism had been mounting inside the West Bank and Gaza over his increasingly autocratic ways. But Mr Arafat has been able to re-establish himself as the undisputed leader of the Palestinians in attempting to restore the stalled peace process.

Mr Netanyahu won the election by vowing to slow down the peace process. "Maybe it was going too fast for his liking," says Mrs Hanan Ashrawi, higher education minister in the Palestinian Authority. "But he did not slow it down. He stopped it altogether."

More crucially, the previous government under Mr Peres had raised high expectations among the Palestinians about the pace of the negotiations and what they could expect from the peace process. It has proved difficult for Mr Arafat's embryonic govern-

The high price of obstinacy

Judy Dempsey on the two leaders at the heart of the Jerusalem conflict



ment to lower those expectations and come to terms with a Likud government which seems to be giving no sense of direction to negotiations. "If anything, he was undoing some of that process by his recent decisions," says Mr Kramer.

Mr Netanyahu, for example, is set to expand the Jewish settlements in the West Bank, a move aimed at placating the Likud extreme right. He refused to give any timetable for the long-delayed redeployment of Israeli troops from the West Bank town of Hebron as stipulated in the 1995 Israeli-Palestinian Interim Agreement.

The Israeli prime minister has always linked progress in the peace negotiations to security, a fundamental plank in his party's platform. He has thus been reluctant to lift completely the border closures on the West Bank and

Gaza imposed earlier this year by the Peres government after a spate of bomb attacks on Israeli civilians.

This has effectively locked the Palestinians into their territories which lack any kind of viable economic infrastructure.

But the last straw came when he touched Jerusalem. "This is one of the most sensitive issues which is due to be discussed as part of the final settlement."

Mr Netanyahu had already said he would not honour Israel's international commitment to negotiate over the return of Arab East Jerusalem. But the opening last Wednesday of a tunnel exit linking the Western Wall, the holiest site for Jews, to the al-Aqsa Mosque, site of the Muslims' holiest sites, detonated an explosion felt throughout the West Bank and Gaza.

The clashes between the Israelis and Palestinians this time are fundamentally different from previous ones - particularly those of the *intifada*, or Palestinian revolt which started in Gaza in 1987. Then, the Palestinians threw stones at the Israelis. But now Israeli troops confront Palestinian police forces which have been armed under the terms of the Interim Agreement's principles of self-rule for the West Bank and Gaza.

The sight of uniformed armed Palestinian police officers shooting at Israeli soldiers appears to have made Mr Netanyahu determined to refuse to discuss peace until the violence has ended.

"We will not have peace negotiations in parallel with the option of violence," he said yesterday. "We will not have our Israeli soldiers shot at. We will take every

available measure to protect our troops."

But there are growing misgivings among the Israeli public about Mr Netanyahu's ability to handle the peace process. In particular, there are doubts whether he can deal with the new relationship between the Israelis and the Palestinians created by the Interim Agreement.

As an editorial yesterday in Haaretz, the liberal Israeli daily, concluded, the prime minister was operating with "disturbing slowness and heaviness". An opinion poll in Yediot Aharanot, a mass circulation daily, showed 54 per cent of respondents did not believe the tunnel exit should have been opened.

Mr Arafat has also been the object of criticism and frustration among Palestinians since Mr Netanyahu's election. He has been accused of not applying enough pressure on the Likud-led government to advance the peace process and keep the Palestinian Authority on centre stage.

**A**t the same time he has been under attack for his autocratic style of rule. Opponents charge that his administration does not tolerate dissent and has imprisoned and tortured human rights activists. Aid meant to build a viable Palestinian economy is said to have been inefficiently used and even misappropriated.

But the 30,000-strong security forces he has built up and used primarily to control his own people have suddenly turned their guns on Israeli troops and transformed the credibility of Mr Arafat's regime. His most immediate task now is to show he can control his police forces.

"If Arafat cannot do that, then he is of no use. If he can, then he has to be accountable for what they do especially since we are dealing with two sides who are now armed," says an Israeli government official.

Even if the violence is brought under control, both leaders will be loath to return to the negotiating table without some concessions. And even if Mr Netanyahu wants to restart the negotiations, his room for manoeuvre is limited.

This is because Mr Netanyahu relies in parliament on the support of the ultra right-wing and Orthodox parties. They will not accept concessions that would include closing the tunnel exit, stopping the expansion of settlements, redeploying troops from Hebron or giving up control around the biblical tomb of Joseph in the West Bank town of Nablus where there was very heavy fighting on Thursday.

"Netanyahu says he will not reward the Palestinians because of the recent days," says an Israeli government official. "But the point is some of those rewards are actually part of the peace process."

"Arafat knows this. But Netanyahu does not seem to understand it. So much depends on how much he is prepared to listen in the coming days."

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Number One Southwark Bridge, London SE1 9HL

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Brussels has met textiles obligations

**From Mr G. Arnould.**  
Sir, I refer to your editorial "Tangled yarn" (September 19). The dumping investigation you refer to was introduced by Eurocotex, which represents the whole of the European cotton industry. It pertains to dumping occurrences which took place in 1995.

Rather than being "perverse" the exercise is purely technical and it bears no relation with the European Union industrial or trade policy. The aim of the investigation is to determine if the evidence presented by the plaintiff is sufficient to establish beyond doubt that there has indeed been dumping.

The process is similar to that in any criminal investigation and its outcome does not reflect a political choice. A party is judged guilty or not.

But there is worse. The timing of the dismantling of the textile quotas is precisely defined in the

Uruguay Round Agreement and the EU has met all its obligations (no one is disputing it except the Financial Times).

The terms of the agreement are such that no "deal" is possible. But they also include the parallel obligations of the parties to provide access to their markets and to implement the World Trade Organisation rules.

Such obligations are simply not met by most leading exporting countries such as China, India, Pakistan, Indonesia and others and it is only legitimate that, when selecting the 17 per cent of products to be liberalised in phase II (the choice of importers), the extent of market opening by exporters be taken into account. In the context of their market opening obligation some countries "offered" to consolidate (ie to guarantee never to exceed) their tariffs at levels higher than before the Uruguay Round: they included Argentina, Indonesia,

Jamaica, Romania, Tunisia and Uruguay.

Others made "significant" concessions but from exceedingly high levels and thus costing very little. The list is long and the problem is that in 2004, when textile trade will be totally liberalised, their tariffs will be, on average, three to seven times higher than those of the EU. During the phase-out period, present tariffs will decrease linearly and be, in effect, more effective than quotas.

We will not suggest a conclusion except to say that the facts totally contradict the suspicion of a request by the EU for some kind of trade off or for a demonstration of protectionism.

**G. Arnould,**  
director general,  
The European Apparel & Textile Organisation,  
24 rue Montoyer,  
1000 Brussels, Belgium

Fortifications are a reason for tension

**From Prof Dr S. Sonyel.**  
Sir, Kerin Hope, on a visit to the island of Simi, just six miles from the Turkish coast, mentions "Money talks louder than rhetoric on front-line Simi". September 16) seeing concrete bunkers and naval patrols. Your readers ought to be made aware that, under international law, these fortifications are strictly illegal and I believe they are one of the main reasons for the tensions between Greece and Turkey in the Aegean.

Since 1948, the Dodecanese are supposed to have been demilitarised. Greece's word seems to be worth very little.

**S. Sonyel,**  
c/o 40 Chatsworth Heights,  
Camberley,  
Surrey GU15 1NH, UK

Factors determining policy on IGC are precariously balanced

**From Mr Andrew Cecil and Mr William Law.**  
Sir, Ian Davidson ("Showdown time", September 18) correctly recognises the French and German governments' realisation that a new Labour government may not necessarily be more co-operative in the discussions on the revision of the Treaty on European Union than the present UK government. However, he bases his judgment on certain misconceptions. Labour party policy on Europe is far from determined or even clear at present. This is evidenced by the regular conflicting undertones

between the European Parliamentary Labour party (EPLP) and its domestic master. Should the flag be the tail or should the EPLP be given a greater say in shaping Labour policy on Europe? Until the Labour party comes clean about its stance towards its European partners, it is unlikely that either French or German policymakers would base their approach to the intergovernmental conference on the silent dictum of Mr Blair's New Labour.

Second, it should not be assumed that France and Germany will push for the

maximalist agenda that outwardly they purport to support. French reservations about ceding further powers from the Elysee to Brussels are deeply rooted and will become more apparent as the focus of the IGC discussions narrow. A forerunner of what may be to come is the French government's insistence on excluding the European parliament from an active negotiating role at the IGC.

As for the Germans, Chancellor Kohl will need to gain popular support for any reforms that are proposed. This will have to be done within the context of a

delicate parliamentary majority and possible conflict with the strong economic and social forces within Germany at present.

Therefore the factors determining French, German and the Labour party's policy on the IGC are precariously balanced, but are more likely to be shaped by internal political considerations than by looking across national borders for guidance.

**Andrew Cecil,**  
**William Law,**  
Avenue Juliette Wytsman 72,  
1050 Brussels, Belgium

FT-IT  
Wednesday,  
October 2.

Don't forget.

The October issue of FT-IT will provide a comprehensive update of IT in retailing, from new in-store applications to the most recent developments in home shopping.

It will also examine the future development of the smart card as the 'electronic-purse' becomes increasingly important throughout the world. It will again be essential reading for everyone involved in IT, whether as user or supplier.

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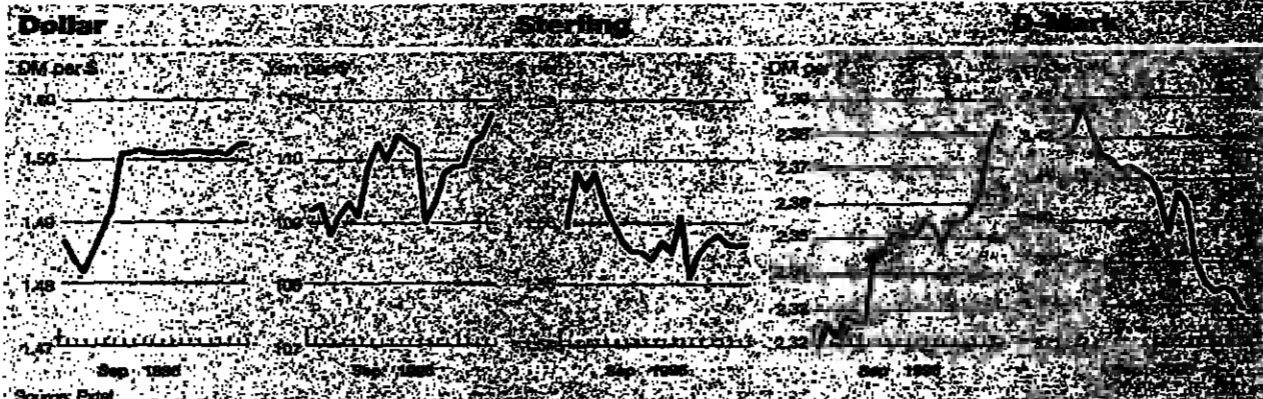


CURRENCIES AND MONEY

Sterling high

MARKETS REPORT

By Richard Adams
Sterling continued its upward charge on international currency markets yesterday, boosted by heavy trading in government bond and short-dated sterling contracts.



Source: Reuters

against the US dollar, closing at \$1.5637, a slight rise from Thursday's closing price of \$1.5624.

The pound strengthened further against the D-Mark, trade at its highest levels this year, Sterling climbed to reach peak last seen in February 1995.

The pound began the week below DM2.3600. Meanwhile, short sterling interest rate futures for 1997 and 1998 again rose steeply.

December 1997 contracts were trading eight basis points higher on the day, while March 1998 contracts were nine points up.

Lira finished the day, having broken the psychologically important L1,000 level against the D-Mark, at L998.7, from L1,001.

The French franc also had a good week, ending at FF8.380 against the D-Mark, from DM3.383.

The Italian financial markets were very bullish yesterday, on expectations that the government's 1997 budget measures will allow the country the chance for membership of Emu.

Italian bonds surged to historic highs, while the lira touched its highest level against the D-Mark since August 1994.

The Italian cabinet met to approve the budget, which cuts L62,500bn (€42bn) off the budget deficit.

Mr Huw Roberts, European bond strategist at NatWest Markets in London, said the market's optimism over the budget was "a huge shot in the arm for the convergence process."

speaks volumes for the determination to join Emu," Mr Roberts said.

There were suggestions in the market of a swift rate cut by the Bank of Italy.

But the central bank issued a statement that its monetary policy will be aimed at taking the inflation level below 3.0 per cent next year.

The Bank of Spain is probably still buying D-Marks for pesetas in an attempt to stem the appreciation of the Spanish unit, traders said.

The central bank was said to be operating discreetly, using several institutions.

That would explain the peseta's difficulty in staying below Ptas4.10 against the D-Mark, where it finished the day, despite continued strong gains in government bonds, analysts said.

POUND SPOT FORWARD AGAINST THE POUND

Table with columns: Country, Currency, Spot rate, 1m, 3m, 6m, 9m, 12m, 18m, 24m, 36m, 48m, 60m, 90m, 120m. Includes entries for Europe, Americas, Asia, and Pacific/Middle East.

DOLLAR SPOT FORWARD AGAINST THE DOLLAR

Table with columns: Country, Currency, Spot rate, 1m, 3m, 6m, 9m, 12m, 18m, 24m, 36m, 48m, 60m, 90m, 120m. Includes entries for Europe, Americas, Asia, and Pacific/Middle East.

CROSS RATES AND DERIVATIVES

Exchange Cross Rates table with columns: Currency, Rate, Bid, Ask, Spread, etc. Includes rows for Belgium, Denmark, France, Germany, etc.

EUROPEAN CURRENCY UNIT RATES

Table showing ECU rates for various countries including Belgium, Denmark, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Portugal, etc.

UK INTEREST RATES

Table showing UK interest rates for London money rates, UK Treasury bills, and UK clearing bank base lending rate.

THREE MONTHS STERLING FUTURES (LIFE) £200,000 points of 100%

Table showing futures prices and changes for three-month sterling futures.

Advertisement for Signal, featuring 'Set real-time quotes, Forex rates and news headlines on your PC with Signal!' and contact information.

Advertisement for Market-Eye, featuring 'FREEDOME 0800 321 321' and contact details for various markets.

Advertisement for Futures & Options, featuring 'S32 ROUND TRIP' and contact information for Futures & Options.

WORLD INTEREST RATES table showing interest rates for various countries including Belgium, Denmark, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Portugal, etc.

THREE MONTHS STERLING FUTURES (MATP) £200,000 points of 100% table with columns for Open, Set price, Change, High, Low, etc.

THREE MONTHS STERLING FUTURES (LIFE) £200,000 points of 100% table with columns for Open, Set price, Change, High, Low, etc.

THREE MONTHS STERLING FUTURES (LIFE) £100,000 points of 100% table with columns for Open, Set price, Change, High, Low, etc.

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THREE MONTHS STERLING FUTURES (LIFE) £1,000 points of 100% table with columns for Open, Set price, Change, High, Low, etc.

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THREE MONTHS STERLING FUTURES (LIFE) £10 points of 100% table with columns for Open, Set price, Change, High, Low, etc.

Large vertical advertisement on the right side of the page, including 'TRUSTS', 'INVESTMENT', and 'PENFORD'.

Handwritten text in Arabic script at the bottom of the page: 'مكتبة المصلح'

# UNIT TRUSTS

## WINNERS AND LOSERS

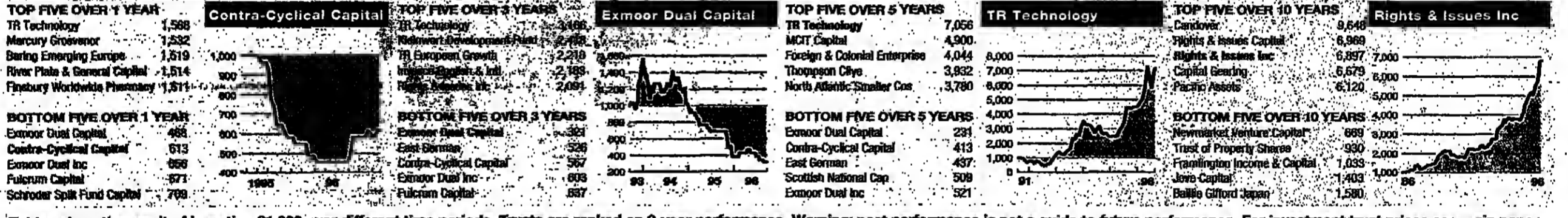


Tables show the result of investing £1,000 over different time periods. Trusts are ranked on 3-year performance. Warning: past performance is not a guide to future performance. Source: HSW (01625 511311)

Indices	UK Eq & Bd	UK Growth	UK Growth & Income	UK Smaller Companies	UK Equity Income	UK Equity & Bond Income	UK General	UK Capital Growth	Smaller Companies	UK Income Growth	Venture and Devt Cap	International General
Average Unit Trust	1082	1198	1110	1320	1185	1098	1198	986	1414	1039	1408	1243
Bank	1082	1198	1110	1320	1185	1098	1198	986	1414	1039	1408	1243
Building Society	1082	1198	1110	1320	1185	1098	1198	986	1414	1039	1408	1243
Stockmarket FT All-Share	1082	1198	1110	1320	1185	1098	1198	986	1414	1039	1408	1243
Index	1082	1198	1110	1320	1185	1098	1198	986	1414	1039	1408	1243

# INVESTMENT TRUSTS

## WINNERS AND LOSERS



Tables show the result of investing £1,000 over different time periods. Trusts are ranked on 3-year performance. Warning: past performance is not a guide to future performance. For investment trust prices see main paper.

UK General	UK Capital Growth	Smaller Companies	UK Income Growth	Venture and Devt Cap	International General	Int Cap Gth	North America	Continental Europe	Pan Europe	Japan	FE inc Japan	Far East exc Japan, General	Far East exc Japan, Single Country	Emerging Markets	Closed End Funds	Property	High Income	Split - Capital	Split - Inc & Residual Cap Shares	Split - Income	Split - Zero Dividend
Mercury Keystone	Flaming Enterprise	INVECO English & Int	Morgan Grenfell Equity Income	Kleinwort Development Fund	Personal Assets	1198	1282	1315	1215	1036	1172	1008	1060	1054	1246	1174	1102	1218	1568	1429	1129
1198	1129	1414	1039	1408	1243	1198	1282	1315	1215	1036	1172	1008	1060	1054	1246	1174	1102	1218	1568	1429	1129

## UNIT TRUST LAUNCHES

**European Smaller Companies Fund**  
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 The fund is designed to capitalise on "excellent prospects" of smaller companies which may benefit from moves towards an equity culture in continental Europe.

## Glossary

**Peps:** Some, but not all, unit and investment trusts can be put into a general personal equity plan which shields investors against both income and capital gains tax. The Peps rules are that you can put £5,000 into a general Pep (and a further £3,000 into a single company Pep). To qualify for the full £5,000 general Pep allowance, a minimum of 50 per cent of a plan's assets must be held in European Union shares or qualifying corporate bonds. A trust which has more overseas investment, but is still 50 per cent invested in shares, is non-qualifying and limited to a Pep content of £1,500.

**Discount:** Investment trust shares traditionally sell for less than their underlying asset value. The gap between the two is known as the discount. In the 1974 bear market, discounts were as wide as 45 per cent and although they have mainly narrowed to well under 10 per cent in recent years, they add an additional uncertainty to investment trust share price prospects. The sharp narrowing of the discount is another reason why investment trusts look better than unit trusts on longer-term comparisons.

**Split capital trusts:** Caveat emptor. If you do not already know what they are, you would probably be wiser to avoid them. They are companies with more than one class of share capital. The traditional variety is relatively simple: income shares get all the income; capital shares get any capital growth over the life of the trust. But nowadays splits are highly complex with several different types of security with differing rights, and aimed to satisfy different investment needs.

Authorised Unit Trusts

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Main table of financial data for various unit trusts, including columns for fund names, prices, and other financial metrics.

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Guide to pricing of Authorised Unit Trusts. Compiled with the assistance of AUTIF SS. Includes sections on Initial charges, Historic pricing, Buying prices, and Treatment of manager's periodic charges.

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# Weekend FT

## Eternal divide in the thrice Holy City

The violence of the past week is but the latest chapter in a millenarian conflict with its origins in scripture and statehood, says David Gardner

*If I forget thee, Oh Jerusalem, let my right hand lose its cunning.*  
Psalm 137  
*"Jerusalem is our heritage as much as it is yours. It was from Jerusalem that our Prophet ascended to heaven, and it is in Jerusalem that the angels assemble."*  
Letter from Saladin to Richard the Lionheart.

Jerusalem is much more than a Berlin, or a Belfast, or a Beirut, or any other city divided by ideology or theology. The thrice Holy City, sacred to Jews, Muslims and Christians, is built on combustible myth. National ambition and religious tradition have collided through the millennia. The symbols - synagogue, mosque and church - dominate the skyline and yet are submerged by the tides of conflict and violence.

The late 20th century phase of the contest began when Israel took over Arab east Jerusalem in the 1967 Six Day War. Israelis regard the entire city, *Yerushalayim*, as the indivisible and eternal capital of the Jewish state. That view of the history begins and ends with the Old Testament. What matters is that, according to the second Book of Samuel, King David made this "fortress of Zion" his capital around 1000BC. It is not relevant that only Zaire, El Salvador and Costa Rica recognise any part of Jerusalem as Israel's capital.

The Palestinians are equally determined that the east of the city they call *Al Quds* will become the capital of their independent state, which will occupy only a portion of their ancestral land - the West Bank and Gaza Strip. Their national ambition is supported by other Arabs and complemented by the spiritual inspiration of the world's 1bn Muslims in the importance

they attach to Jerusalem. Saladin, the Muslim hero who recaptured the Holy City from the marauding Crusaders in 1187, reminded the departing Richard the Lionheart, that it is from Temple Mount, the third holiest place in Islam, that the Prophet Mohammed is believed to have ascended to heaven. The Dome of the Rock, built on that site, is the earliest surviving mosque. Jerusalem, indeed, preceded Mecca as the qibla, the direction towards which Muslims turned in prayer.

Christians of all denominations have their churches in the Holy City and share the majestic Holy Sepulchre. As Crusaders they were responsible for one of the bloodiest chapters in Jerusalem's history, slaughtering over 70,000 Muslims and Jews upon capturing the city. Christians are not party to the present dispute - except as Christian Arabs, whose forebears helped the Muslim armies take the city from the Byzantines in 638.

With the advent of a new Israeli government under Benjamin Netanyahu - who cut short his first official visit to Europe this week - Jerusalem's potential to set the entire region on fire has increased. The immediate cause of the past few days' bloody violence, a tunnel the Israelis bored into Temple Mount for the convenience of tourists, has itself been a reminder of the role that the sacred past could play in a troubled future.

Netanyahu won last May's elections on the issue of security and by declaring that he would not return any more conquered Arab land in exchange for peace with Israel's neighbours. One of his most damaging charges against Shimon Peres, his Labour opponent and architect of the Middle East peace process, was to warn that Labour would divide Jerusa-



The symbols - synagogue, mosque and church - dominate the skyline but are submerged by the tides of conflict. Perry Tweed

lem - and hand over the Israeli-occupied Arab east of the Holy City to the Palestinians. Without Jerusalem, the "Palestinian Question" would not be what it is: the heart of the Arab-Israeli conflict. Without Jerusalem and its overlay of religion and myth, the Palestinians would probably command little more international concern than other peoples without a state in the region, like the Kurds or the Armenians. Jerusalem is also too important for Arab leaders, habituated to intra-brotherly intrigue and squabbling, to disagree over.

In May last year, an Israeli decree expropriating another 131 acres of Arab land in east Jerusalem enabled the Arab League to overcome the bitter divisions caused by Iraq's 1990 invasion of Kuwait and call its first summit for five years (the decree was revoked and the summit cancelled). Israel, however, is poised to decide the future of Jerusalem without further negotiations. By creating what Israelis like to call "facts on the ground", the new government expects to be able to put Jerusalem physically beyond Palestinian grasp, constructing a wall of Jew-

ish settlements to separate east Jerusalem from the West Bank, and settling the issue of the eternally divided city. Just after Israel occupied east Jerusalem, the state's founding father, David Ben-Gurion, initially wanted to demolish the Ottoman-built wall ringing the old city to expunge its Islamic heritage - rather as the Roman emperor Hadrian obliterated Jewish Jerusalem and the (Christian) Byzantines used Temple Mount as the city rubbish dump. Subsequent Israeli governments, whether led by Labour or Netanyahu's

Likud, have been less dramatic, but more effective. In essence, they have used housing and zoning policy, and discrimination over residence permits, to create a Jewish majority in the eastern quarter and make it impossible for Arab residents to build enough to house their expanding families. Jerusalem's mayor, Ehud Olmert, says Jews will constitute a majority in the annexed areas by the end of this year. By Palestinian reckoning, that target was passed in 1994, with Jews in the east now numbering 185,000 to 190,000 Arabs.

Ariel Sharon, the extreme right-wing general who, as housing minister in the last Likud government, spearheaded the drive to build Jewish settlements on Arab land and who has returned under Netanyahu as infrastructure minister, has explained in detail what his policy was and remains. He has defined the problem as "how to bring Jerusalem to have a Jewish majority for ever". The solution was to expropriate Arab land and encircle east Jerusalem with four big clusters of settlements - Givat Ze'ev north of the city, Ma'ale Adumim to the east, and Efrat and Gush Etzion in the south and south-west - looming from the hills over the Arab villages like modern Crusader castles. These are the main building blocks which will permit the Likud-led coalition to enclose east Jerusalem. As Sharon wrote: "In Jerusalem we built and created facts that can no longer be changed; we did it openly."

Under Labour, there was a freeze on new settlements as part of the Oslo peace process with the PLO. This did not extend to the settlements of "Greater" or metropolitan Jerusalem and overall, the number of settlers on Arab land under the Labour peacemakers expanded almost 50 per cent, according to the settler publication *Nekuda*, from 105,940 to 151,324. Since taking office, Netanyahu has quipped that he can hardly be expected to do less. But the clearest decision he has made is that he will not honour Israel's international commitment to negotiate the future status of east Jerusalem with the Palestinians. Under the US and Russian-backed Oslo agreements of 1993, which give the Palestinians interim self-rule in parts of the West Bank and Gaza, the two sides between now and May 1999 should conclude "final status" agreements on Jerusalem, Palestinian statehood, borders, and the rights of more than 4m Palestinian refugees.

Likud leaders routinely say that they will never assent to a Palestinian state, so there is no point in discussing east Jerusalem as its capital. Sharon and cabinet allies such as interior minister Eli Suissa - a religious fundamentalist who controlled Jerusalem building policy under Labour - goes further. Last month Suissa said Israel would annex the settlements ringing Jerusalem, cutting off the east from its West Bank hinterland. Netanyahu has as yet said

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**Joe Rogaly**  
**Politics of health is a killer**  
No political party dares attack the existence of the NHS but its decline will continue

Here is a nice little question. Which country spends a greater share of its gross domestic product on taxpayer-funded health care - the US or Britain? Tricky. This is money the government controls. Answer: the US, at 5.9 per cent, against the United Kingdom's 3.9 per cent. The closeness of the figures is not really surprising. The European Union average is precisely 6 per cent, a silver above the level for the entire developed world.

The catch, of course, is the difference in spending on privately financed medicine - individual patients, meeting bills themselves or through private or company insurance, account for a mere 1.3 per cent of Britain's GDP. The equivalent ratio for the EU is 1.7 per cent. For the OECD - the industrialised countries - it is a startling 7.9 per cent. Enough statistics, I have pinched the ones rebarbed above from a chart published this week by the Independent Healthcare Association.

potential suckers. Just one more test, says the physician, one additional complaint you never thought of when you came in. It goes on the invoice, adding to the doctor's income. You pay your money and white-coat makes your choice.

That is the principal argument in favour of Britain's National Health Service. The system is fair, if you close your eyes to the ability of good earners to buy themselves earlier treatment in more congenial surroundings than those that are endured by patients who cannot afford anything else.

Let us eschew cynicism, if only for a moment. Taxpayers provide the wages of practitioners and nurses; NHS patients are treated free at the point of provision. Rationing is determined according to criteria other than the income of the sick individual. The result is imperfect, but effective. You may have to wait. Attention may be impersonal. Accommodation may be spartan. In the end, most patients get adequate care.

This could explain why in Britain the number of subscriptions to private medical insurance, which tripled during the 1980s, has not risen much during the 1990s, although there are signs of a pick-up now. Another explanation might be the recession, and corporate penny

Private institutions have captured most of the long-term care business. As to the provision of private beds, the NHS has become an active competitor.

None of this means that Britain's health services are about to become like those across the water, where, we are told, the fortunate majority of the citizenry covered by insurance gets a decent standard of medical care. No thanks, President Clinton's great failure to date is his inability to win congressional acceptance for healthcare reform.

Some 40m Americans remain uninsured. Even for those who are protected, a serious illness can be a financial disaster. If that is where choice leads, the British are unlikely to follow.

The Fabian Society, traditionally a source of left-wing thinking, has published a paper by Steven Henning-Sieverts, a consultant. You

can get it from 11 Dartmouth Street, London SW1H 9BN. It suggests that the US can offer a model for well-run, quality health services. A link between payment and entitlement ensures the best care, it asserts.

Possibly. But those who would convince British voters of this may decimate the world's forests to provide pamphlets. They have not a hope. The nation that devised the NHS defends it strongly. Patients are loud and quick to complain about the inadequacies of the service, but no political party dares attack its existence.

Yet the taxpayer-financed NHS will continue to wither away. Future governments, of either a New Labour or Conservative persuasion, will extend charges and curtail services. They will be afraid to increase taxes, which they would have to do to finance the likely growth in demand for high-quality medical attention. There is no fiscal reason why taxation should not rise, but the politics of it is a killer. The road to privatisation is long, but wide open.

**The public service element of British healthcare is being eroded**

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PERSPECTIVES

The Nature of Things
On the trail of animal navigators

Andrew Derrington looks at the abilities of some creatures always to find their way home

ID Hair Design is the only hairdressing salon in Newcastle where you can get really good honey. Ian, the proprietor, is proud of his bees and particularly of their uncanny ability to find their way back home.

Even when Ian takes the hive on holiday in the wilds of Northumberland, the bees have no difficulty navigating a course back to the hive.

Research on animal navigation covers species from the ant to the whale. Some scientists follow individual Sahara desert ants, plotting their course in a notebook. Others use satellites to track whales through the ocean.

The need to understand the movements of commercially important species means that substantial funding for work in this area is forthcoming.

Individual scientists are driven by the urge to understand how animals' navigation equipment works. Julian Metcalfe, a Ministry of Agriculture scientist who tags place with data-logging equipment to follow their annual migration up and down the North Sea, says: "There's a lot of debate about whether they use vision, smell or a magnetic compass. As soon as you knock out one of these mechanisms others may take over," he says.

In fact, the bee's navigational abilities are unremarkable by animal standards. The trick it uses to return to its hive in an unfamiliar location is called path integration. Like many species, the bees have a compass and an odometer so they can measure length and direction of each leg

and trained the bees to fly to a feeder on top of another tall building. Because they flew high over the ground the optic flow was much less than when they flew the same distance at ground level. As predicted, when they danced on return to the hive on top of the skyscraper the bees signalled a much shorter distance than when they flew the same distance at ground level.

Stephen and Kerry-Jane Martin spent three weeks travelling around Poland investigating the possibility of starting up a furniture importing business to the UK.



It's in the bag: Stephen and Kerry-Jane Martin who run a cleaning business in Poland

But it was their growing pile of washing that provided the inspiration for their first business venture together.

Kerry-Jane searched for the nearest laundrette but could find nothing resembling a western one, even though many people lived in huge tower blocks with little space or money for their own washing machines.

Minding Your Own Business

Cleaning up in Poland

Grania Langdon-Down on the trials of going to work in eastern Europe

"After we had the laundrette idea, a contact we knew carried out a survey for us of 1,000 people in Lodz, Poland's second city, and the response was very positive.

"It seemed a terrific plan and we thought we were going to be millionaires in three years," he said wryly.

The couple set up a Dutch holding company with £100,000 capital, 90 per cent from their investor and 10 per cent from their savings, and called it East European Holdings. This became the parent company of their Polish limited liability company Luxomat, of which they are both directors.

So, the two set about restructuring the business, concentrating on the dry cleaning. They bought new dry cleaning equipment and retraining their staff. It was a difficult time.

"The cash flow was so bad at times we had to take money out on our credit cards to pay the staff bill."

They found a factory to use as a central processing plant. It now services their six shops and agents, all in Warsaw and its outskirts. It also does the dry cleaning for several industrial contracts with embassies, the armed forces, restaurants and hairdressers. Luxomat now has a staff of 35.

The couple were determined the shops would stand out as modern, efficient and competitive. But marketing was a problem as they did not want to appear just another foreign organisation looking for a quick profit.

responsibility for the shops. Kerry-Jane spends between two and three days there every six weeks and is in weekly telephone contact. They are now living in the Cotswolds after spending three months in France to "clear their heads of Poland".

Wages are low - the average salary of the laundry staff is £175 a month - but the company has to pay a further 95 per cent of that amount on top to cover tax and social security. It means the company's average monthly staffing bill is about £10,000.

There is a very strong labour code and little is done to help employers

The first two quarters of 1996 reached £141,156. Operating profits are about 20 per cent. They say they now need to open more shops and look at the opportunities in other cities.

The couple, who have a daughter, Venetia, nearly two, and a second baby due in October, lived in Poland until last Christmas when they left their general manager was ready to take

"Our rents are also high - an average of about £1,900 a month - and we have to get everything from the chemicals and bags to cover the clothes to the tagging guns and safety pins from abroad," Stephen said.

"The bureaucracy is a complete nightmare. Getting permission to open an outlet at one of the city's supermarkets took written permission from 14 different authorities."

Stephen said: "We learnt about the laundrette business as fast as we could and bought the best equipment from Belgium and America. We gave up our rented house in England and returned to Poland with our two dogs in September 1991. We took on a full-time assistant/translator and found premises in Warsaw in a very good tower block area where there were 250,000 people living on top

Truth of the Matter
The awful moral sump

Whatever next? The Natal Olympics? (Natal - not natarl). Jeux sans frontières for pregnant mums? "Now we go over to Barbara in the labour ward in Sydney, Australia. The latest is, yes she's got three - that's thirty grand for Barbara, no sorry and only twenty grand, one little mite is dead."

Extreme examples can be repeated and grotesque but also instructive. They mark the end point of a "slippery slope" or wedge. Set even one foot on the slope and, bingo, there you are in the sump.

It is already too late to suggest, let alone enforce, total prohibitions. The abolitionists lost the day a century ago. Arguments from Natural Law convince no one outside the walls of the Vatican.

Extremes cases do occur in real life, like the dumping of 5,000 frozen human egg-balls or the prospect of (probably or stillborn) octuplets to a single mother who on any rational judgment should not have been offered fertility treatment in the first place.

Hugh Dickinson

Eternal divide in the thrice Holy City

nothing definitive. But his chief political adviser, Dore Gold, wrote in a study last year that "the assertion of such territorial control would... produce an Arab sector in east Jerusalem that was isolated from the West Bank and could not effectively serve as a national capital."

of east Jerusalem expropriated from Arabs to house Jews - over a third of the total area. Then he details a further 52 per cent of the land designated as "green areas". Until Oslo, these tracts were regularly expropriated for "public purposes" which turned out to be Jewish housing.

actions by the Palestinians and more recently by Ir Shalem, an Israeli organisation fighting further land encroachments to ensure there will be something left to discuss under "final status".

drawers for years. Since 1987, they've never changed. If they start to build quickly now, in four years we won't be able to talk about Al Quds but only about Yerushalayim. It'll be over."

last month, Olmert's bulldozers demolished the Burj al Laqlaq Centre for the Aged and Handicapped in the old city. Although Palestinians insist this was on Waqf (Islamic) religious trust land under their control, virtually all Arab building inside Jerusalem is illegal under tightening rules.

if we have time left or not. It's in their hands, not mine." He denies that Labour and the PLO had, before the elections, secretly agreed in principle that Abu Dis - an Arab village east of the city boundary - would be rechristened Al Quds and become the Palestinian capital. The argument now looks academic.

Netanyahu aides believe Israel can keep the whole city, by persuading any or all of three Arab kings - Hussein of Jordan, Hassan of Morocco and Fahd of Saudi Arabia - to become "trustees" of the Holy Places. There are flaws in the plan, the most obvious being that it could seriously compromise their legitimacy in their own countries at a time of rising Islamist challenge.

In an office just over the old, pre-1987, Green Line boundary in east Jerusalem, Khalil Toufagi, a PLO cartographer, lays out maps, patiently and unemotionally. He points out the areas inside the municipal limits

Then we move outside the city limits to "Greater Jerusalem" and the West Bank. Toufagi produces what is known to the Israelis as Military Order Number 50, dating from 1982. This shows a network of roads through and around Jerusalem, connecting up the settlements while slicing up and atomising the Arab villages and neighbourhoods.

"The first issue now is by-pass roads," says Toufagi. "The second is settlements. Look at these maps and you can see the future. That is final status. All these plans have been in their [Israeli]

But Ehud Olmert, the mayor of Jerusalem, says: "Don't believe this nonsense. There is no deliberate plan. Every city in the world expropriates land for public use." The nub of his argument is that every "satellite township" until Oslo was built "when we weren't negotiating with them [the

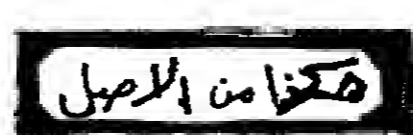
the problem of Jerusalem could be the trigger for a Middle East in turmoil," observes Mohammed Hassanain Helkal, the leading Egyptian commentator and former Nasser intimate. "The springboard for a new series of revolutions in the Arab world... only Arafat could surrender Jerusalem."

Husseini, descended from Haj-Amin al-Husseini, who, before the PLO existed, led Palestinians as Grand Mufti of Jerusalem, concurs. "Don't open the religious issue," he says, warning this will give "new legitimacy and motivation" to the Islamic fundamentalists in Palestine and the region. "The PLO holds the most important card in the Arab world because Palestine has Jerusalem in it," he says. "but the PLO is secular and we cannot use this [religious

card). But if that card drops from its hands, the only ones who can pick it up are the Islamist organisations. Every single Arab leader knows this."

"Jerusalem, by Dore Gold, published by the Joffe Centre for Strategic Studies, Tel Aviv University. "Isaiah, the West and Jerusalem, by Walid Khalidi, published by Hood Hood Books, 29 Botolph Claydon, London SW11 6EL.

Chess No 1147: White plays 1 Bb2, when the queen reaches KB3, Bx7 and e5, P h6 x BK g6, P h7; then finishes by Bc7 Bx5 Kf7 mate, instead 1 Bc7 or Bb7 are stalemate while 1 Bb7 Kf7 2 Nc7 Kc5 3 Nc5 Kc5 4 Nc7 Kc7 5 Nc5 Kc5 6 Kc2 Kc7 7 h7 Kc7 mate.



PERSPECTIVES

Lunch with the FT  
The dessert trolley passed by unnoticed

Lucy Kellaway tries to tempt a slim Lord Lawson

So there I was last Tuesday lunchtime at London's Savoy Grill, offering Lord Lawson some advice on cosmetic surgery. The problem with losing five stone, he had admitted, is that his skin is now too big for him. "It gradually adjusts but at my age it won't adjust totally. I haven't had anything done about it yet. I may or I may not. I haven't decided."

I looked at the loose skin under his chin and counselled him against a cut and tuck. Just imagine the figure of fun he would become. Just think of the newspaper headlines. "Perhaps you are right," he said. "I think I will take your advice."

Had you told anyone 10 years ago that the then chancellor, famous for his arrogance and his fatness, would be reborn as a thin man, the author of a diet book, who meekly takes advice on personal matters from a journalist, you would not have believed it.

And you would have been right to be sceptical. In terms of bulk, Lawson is two thirds the man he once was, but in terms of personality he has not changed one bit.

I had met him a year earlier at a dinner for writers of the FT Lex column and, on that occasion, he had seemed weary by my attempts at small talk. He had also looked terrible, with skin yellow and crumpled like that of a tortoise; one could not say that the weight loss suited him.

Still, on Tuesday he was in excellent form and looking better, older but spry. "My favourite thing is grouse, and there is no better grouse than at the Savoy Grill," he said cheerfully.

In an attempt to provoke him, I ordered a fattening dish of fried fish cakes with potato rataouille. But nothing doing; his full attention was fixed on the wine.

"Can I have something really good?" he asked. He had in mind a 1989 Château Kirwan at £37.10 a half bottle; I asked how much the next one down was. There seemed to be a wine which he was prepared to drink at £22.85, but not wanting to seem mean, I told him that he would have to make the choice himself. "Well, if it won't get you into trouble..."

"So tell me about your self," he said, once the waiter had been despatched. I talked. He listened charmingly.

But before long we got down to the serious business of discussing diets, and *The Nigel Lawson Diet Book* in particular.

"Did you enjoy it, may I ask?" he inquired.

I muttered something about me not being his target audience, but said I admired its length, a mere 120 half-sized pages of which he had written 60 and his wife the rest. "It is a limited subject and only requires a short book," he said, commending to me some of the psychological tricks described in the book that make the discipline of a diet less difficult.

However, his most effective "trick" seems to have been in marrying Therese Lawson. When he decided to diet he gave her a list of acceptable ingredients and she drew up some delicious menus. A typical dinner chez Lawson might be a rack of fat-trimmed lamb, roasted a poire with ginger, a strongly flavoured jus, and some spinach with lemon. I remarked that the diet might work less well for those of us for whom a typical dinner is microwaved lasagne.

"The principles can be applied by anyone, but it may not taste quite so good," he insisted.

Over our first courses - his a marinated salmon with an anything but innocent looking sauce - we got on to the ticklish matter of his changed appearance. "People are extremely disconcerted," he explained, "because they have an image of me and if I don't conform to it they feel uncomfortable. You know inside you are the same - but there is a mismatch with other people, who think you must be different. I think that happens with the ageing process too."

I was glad it was he who brought up ageing, so without seeming rude I could say that losing weight makes you look older.

He gave me a fixed look. "At first I may have looked older, partly because my clothes didn't fit me," he replied. However, so many people asked him if he was ill, that he started to fret. "I was worried, so I went to the doctor for a thorough health check."

His grouse arrived and he was poured some wine. He gestured for a brief silence while he tasted it.

Does he expect his diet book to outsell *The View From Number 11*, his heavyweight political memoir, I asked. "Nobody in their right mind, first of all," he said, easing himself into a lecture. "Judges the merit of relative books by how much they sell. My ambition with my memoirs was to write something that would be of lasting value. I would hope that it will still be read long after I'm dead. But I wrote this book because it was meeting what appears - to my surprise - to be a demand, and it was something I could do jointly with Therese."

Still, how would he feel if this book was so successful that he went down in history as Nigel Lawson, the man who lost the weight?

"If I thought that was the only thing I'd be remembered for I'd feel disappointed."

The waiter poured another half inch of the wine into Lawson's glass.

"If you put the rest in the glass I can calibrate - co-ordinate - how much is left with the food." The waiter was at a loss, so Lawson explained more directly that he wanted all the wine poured out. "Thank you. Excellent."

A trolley of desserts was wheeled past. "A double espresso," he said, as if he had been saying that all his life.

Still, he had had a good meal - rather better than mine - and the only things he had refused were bread, bread sauce, and the dainty little crisps with the grouse.

So what is your next book going to be, I asked as I put my credit card on top of a bill for £114.55p.

"I don't want to say anything now," he said in a tone familiar from years of fending off questions on BBC Radio 4's *Today* programme. "I wouldn't want to tempt providence."

The meal over, I took him to meet the photographer. "I had my photograph taken," he complained. Was that because he doesn't like how he looks, I asked.

No, it turns out that if you are Lord Lawson you can teach yourself to change the eating habits of a lifetime. But you can't teach yourself to hold a convincing smile.



Nigel Lawson: the heavyweight politician



Nigel Lawson: now two-thirds of the man he was

Photos: Universal Pictorial Press/Trevor Hargreaves

In Greenland these days, the hand-thrown harpoons have been swapped for rifles, the dog sleds for snow-mobiles, and the sealskin jackets for anoraks made in Taiwan. In summer, hunters zoom up the deep fjords that puncture the coastline in battered speed-boats, dodging icebergs drifting toward the open seas, searching for caribou and musk-ox.

The Eskimo or Inuit as they are usually called, can rely on a less seasonal source for survival during hard times - the generous Scandinavian welfare system of the Danish state, still the ultimate ruler and main provider in Greenland.

In spite of this help, Greenlanders are still struggling to hold their place in the world. Like other aboriginal cultures - in Australia and North America - the Greenland Inuit have found the experience of European colonisation traumatic. Within decades, the system of Arctic subsistence which shaped their way of life has been rendered irrelevant and the country of just 57,000 people is plagued by alcoholism, suicide and domestic violence.

During the 1980s, annual alcohol consumption per head in Greenland rose above 20 litres - compared with less than 12 litres in Denmark. Itself one of Europe's leading consumers, suicide accounted for 11 per cent of all deaths in Greenland in 1983, homicide, mostly the result of domestic fighting, for 3 per cent and accidents, often alcohol-related, 6 per cent.

Yet the story of the Greenland Inuit is different from that of many other aboriginal peoples. There is little sentimental harking back to an existence brutal in its precariousness. The 200-year-old colonial rule by the Danes has been relatively benign. The country thanks to its extreme climate - has not been overrun by settlers. The Inuit language has remained the first language. But perhaps most significant of all, in 1979 Greenland won a large degree of self-government from Copenhagen, which it has since expanded.

Nuka Moller is a teacher, historian and, until recently, a senior official in the Greenland Home Rule government. "The more we see of the world," he remarks, "the more we see that the experience of native peoples in it has been a very negative one. Compared with many of them we have had a very positive experience."

Greenland is four times the size of France and has no roads linking the few settlements scattered around its fragmented coastline. No trees grow and much of it is covered by an immense ice cap - a giant glacier 3.5km thick at its deepest point.

Nowhere does the average daily temperature rise above 10°C, in winter, it can hit -50°C. "To understand Greenland you have to understand the power that dominates us:

Col and hostile land: in spite of its name, Greenland has no trees and is covered by an immense ice cap

A band of redoubtable Vikings arrived in the late 10th century, when the climate was milder. The best explanation for Greenland's perverse name is that the Viking settlers wanted to encourage more of their kin to follow them across the northern Atlantic, so they gave the land an attractive name. But the Vikings disappeared after 500 years, leaving the Inuit to themselves until the Europeans returned in the 18th century.

The Inuit never conquered the cold and the ice, but they learned to survive in it with remarkable tenacity and ingenuity. The watershed came during the second world war, when the US built air force bases, opening the country to regular traffic from Europe and North America. Over the next 30 years, the traditional reliance on subsistence hunting diminished, to be replaced by an increasing reliance on Danish welfare.

"Until the 1950s, Greenland was a hunters' society. People really were living in igloos," says Marianne Jensen, the health minister.

Since Home Rule in 1978, a gloomy cycle of dependence

has been broken, replaced by a determination by Greenlanders to take charge of their own future. "Home Rule is not an end in itself," said Premier Emil Johansen. "We want to be as independent as possible."

In 1985, the Home Rule authority organised a referendum and Greenland voted to leave the European Community. Today, the authority is pushing for a greater say in the use of bases by the Danish armed forces - and the one remaining US base in the far north-west.

But the extent of dependence on Denmark is still enormous. Greenland would collapse without an annual subsidy from Copenhagen of DKr3bn, accounting for more than 60 per cent of the authority's budget and more than 40 per cent of Greenland's gross national product.

The relationship remains deeply ambivalent on both sides.

The evolving culture of post-colonial Greenland has, like its politics, many outside influences. In spite of the recent revival of traditional Eskimo drum dances, tales of ancient spirits and the evocative sculptures and paintings of whales and seals, most of the local population looks elsewhere for entertainment. At a folk festival in the little capital Nuuk last month, the most popular attraction was hungee jumping from a crane

This is the Year of the Spa and the British Spas Federation is celebrating its 75th birthday. It celebrates the right word.

For since 1921, when the federation was formed, the history of British spas has been more one of decline than progress. Bath, Buxton, Leamington, Tunbridge Wells, Cheltenham, Harrogate, Malvern - all have seen closures of spring water baths and the decline of the sources that originally drew people there.

Contrast their state with other European spa towns. In several countries citizens are entitled to low-cost state subsidised spa holidays lasting up to three weeks providing they are referred by a doctor.

In British spa towns many of the magnificent Victorian buildings that once housed the spa treatment rooms are in a state of advanced decay. During this anniversary year the federation has been trying to publicise some of the spa buildings in an attempt to reverse their decline.

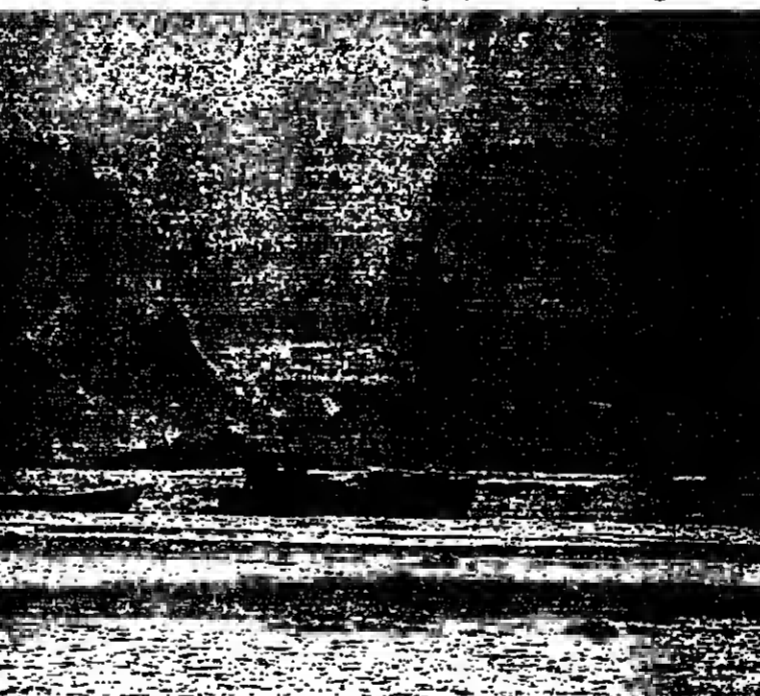
A good example can be seen at Woodhall Spa in Lincolnshire, which this weekend stages a festival which the spa federation hopes will spearhead the revival of much of the "spa culture" that thrived there before the first world war.

Woodhall, which is midway between Lincoln and Boston, illustrates the path of decline in a once-thriving spa. It has a population of 3,000 - yet there was not even a hutlet there until John Parkinson sunk a shaft at the beginning of the 19th century in his search for coal and, instead, discovered water with a high iodine content.

The settlement that grew up was entirely based on the spa business - a wooded oasis which included several hotels.

In 1983 the spa centre,

Greenland grapples with modern life  
Colonisation has been traumatic for the Inuits, but they are learning to cope, finds Hugh Carnegy



Cold and hostile land: in spite of its name, Greenland has no trees and is covered by an immense ice cap

parked in the square. The most popular permanent venues in town are the dingy "King's Pub" and an equally insalubrious dance hall next door.

The Home Rule government has a sanguine approach to outside influences - and the social problems. But both Emil Johansen and his predecessor as premier have publicly admitted that the drinking problem is a factor. The reward has been a significant reduction in alcohol consumption.

The authority believes greater self-sufficiency in the economy is the key to greater independence and a more stable society.

But Greenland's economy has suffered badly in the past two decades from an unlikely alliance between nature and western environmentalists. A 2°C cooling of the seas around the island has devastated the cod stocks, once plundered for an annual catch of up to 500,000 tonnes - now at 1,500. Meanwhile, the campaign by Greenpeace against seal hunting has all but destroyed markets for seal-skins - on which many communities relied for cash income.

The reality seems to be that Greenland will rely on the largesse of the Danish taxpayer for many years. But the sense of identity will not disappear.

"I think we are now very much aware of our own identity," says Marianne Jensen. "The moment we lose our awareness, then why should anyone want to live here any more?"

The decline of the great British spa  
Clive Fewins looks at schemes to revive interest in 'taking the waters'

with its water treatments, physiotherapy department and rheumatism clinic was closed when several buildings began to collapse.

They remained derelict until 1988 when the complex, with its ornate Victorian brick pump featuring a magnificent pine roof, was bought by Mostafa Ezzat, an Egyptian doctor with an ambitious £400,000 scheme to revive the spa centre. He has already started converting some of the former office space into new treatment rooms, and hopes to re-dig the well.

"The Woodhall water proved to be one of the best in the world. We plan to reopen the hydrotherapy pool and also to restart treatments with the mud which used to be mined half way down the shaft," he said.

"We hope to have the complex at least partly operational again by summer."

In Buxton there is a similarly ambitious scheme. There, developer Stephen Weeks has applied for three separate tranches of National Lottery money and is hoping to start work on a £6.5m scheme to revive the original spa buildings early next spring.

"For many years Buxton has operated successfully as an inland resort where cultural and physical well-being go together," he said. "However it is more than 20 years since the natural baths closed."

"We plan to pump the water from the Roman source, which still exists deep underneath the centre of the town - to the pump room across the road which has not been used for its original function since 1961."

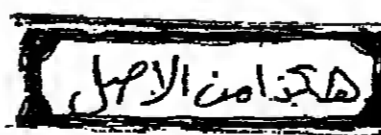
The Bath and North-East Somerset district council has made a £5m application to the Millennium Fund in a bid to restore three baths - the Cross bath, the Old Royal bath and the Beau Street bath to full working condition.

However, in Leamington Spa, a recently-approved £4m revival scheme will have little to do with water. The town's museum and art gallery and library is to be re-housed in the former spa buildings, the Georgian (1814) pump room is to be upgraded and the tourist information centre moved to a more central site.

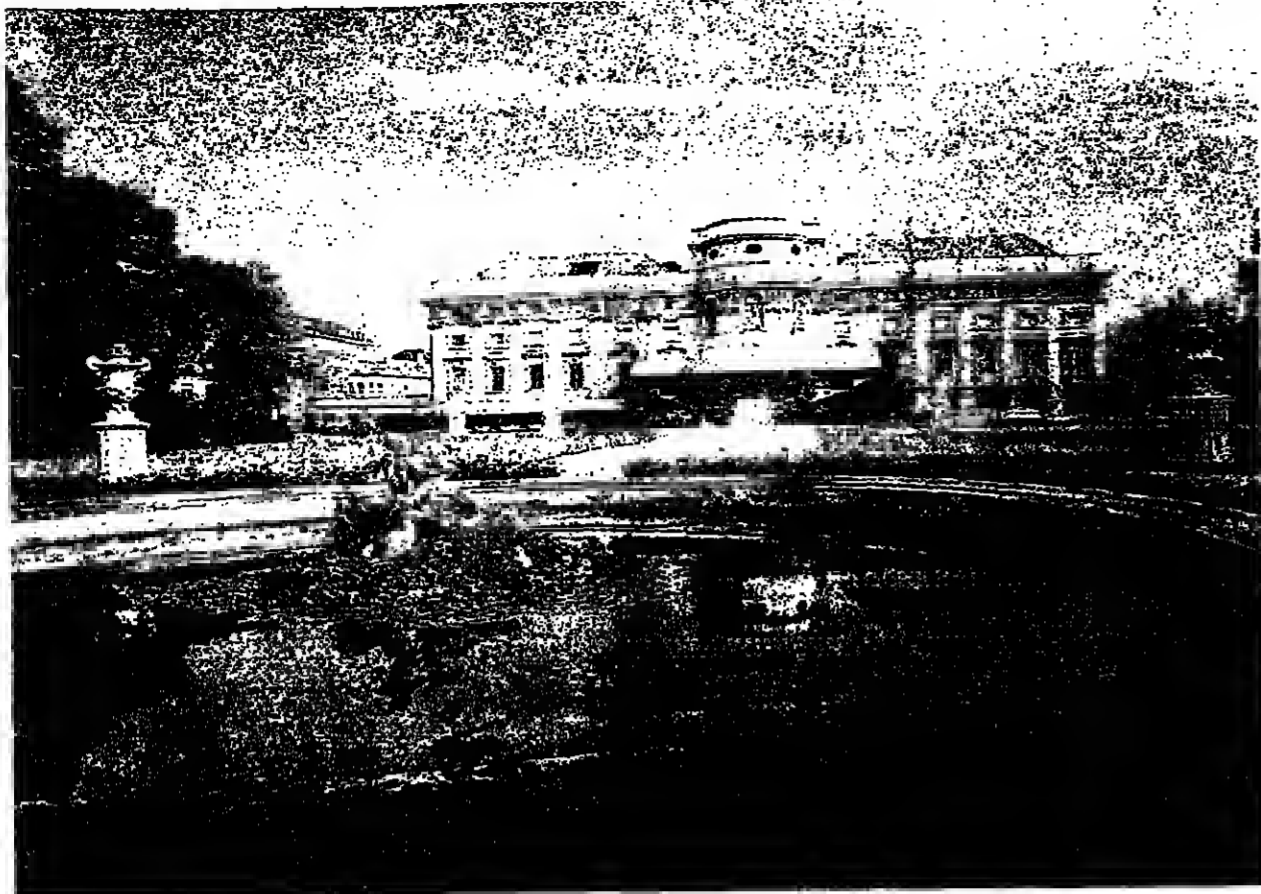
A spa heritage trail will be established. "Sadly our spa water will remain unused for bathing," said Dennis Stanley, economic development officer for Warwick district council.

The four central Welsh spa towns, Llandrindod Wells, Llanwrtyd, Llangamarch and Builth, which have not offered baths in natural spring water for many years, have commissioned a report from the Deloitte and Touche consulting group on ways in which they might revive their spa culture.

Spa researcher and author John Harcup says: "In my view you should go to a spa for weeks, not hours. This is something that is recognised in the rest of Europe but sadly not in UK."



FOOD AND DRINK



Vienna: the city has a wealth of old world charm of which the Hotel im Palais Schwarzenberg is a part



Berlin: until recently the city's hotels have been dire, but in 1991 the Sauter family opened the Brandenburg Hof in the centre

# Feasting in Berlin and Vienna

Two of Europe's greatest cities provided Giles MacDonogh with a sharp gastronomic contrast

**T**here was always a stark contrast between Vienna and Berlin. Vienna was the former capital of the Holy Roman Empire: idle, fun-loving, ostentatious aristocratic and Catholic. Berlin was the challenger, the capital of the German Reich: industriously Spartan, *arriviste* and Protestant.

The contrast has become more acute since the second world war, because Vienna, although visibly mauled by the bombing, has remained recognisably Vienna. Berlin, on the other hand, was largely wiped out, and both the bombs and the political solution imposed on its ruins robbed it of almost all the frilly bits which softened its Prussian austerity.

This polarity is obvious from the cities' hotels. With one or two exceptions Berlin's are modern, business-like and untempting.

Vienna, on the other hand, retains a wealth of old world charm: the Imperial, Sacher, the Bristol, and the only hotel in either city which is literally a palace: the Hotel im Palais Schwarzenberg.

There cannot be many places like the Schwarzenberg anywhere. It sits just behind the Schwarzenberg Platz, smack in the centre of the city, with its own 20-acre private park, making it a little like Buckingham Palace. The comparison is not so far-fetched. The Schwarzenberg family with its enormous land-holdings in Bohemia, was one step from royalty.

It bought the late 17th century building by Lukas von Hildebrand in 1716 and

employed Johann Bernhard Fischer von Erlach to turn it into the grandest noblemen's residence in the city.

A bomb lopped off the dome in the last war, but after restoration it is much as it was, with its sumptuous Marmoraal and Speisesaal and the Rubens paintings still hanging on the walls, together with collections of Meissen porcelain and Gobelins tapestry.

Even more remarkable perhaps, is that in spite of the wars and revolutions which drove the Habsburg emperors from their palace in the Hofburg, the Palais Schwarzenberg is still owned and inhabited by Schwarzenbergs.

The decision to open a small hotel in the palace was taken in 1962. At first the hotel operated on a modest scale, but successive enlargements have turned the whole of the central part of the palace over to the hotel and pushed the family into the wings. There are now 39 rooms and suites, the best of which look out over the formal gardens.

The Palais Schwarzenberg is also one of Vienna's very best restaurants. The style is more self-consciously French than its chief rivals: Strecker, Altwienerhof, or the Korso restaurant in the Bristol. It also has the advantage of its location. In summer you sit out on the terrace

and can imagine that you are anywhere other than the centre of a big city.

I ate there in June: a salad of crayfish and cucumbers with a (slightly rubbery) potato mousse; a chilled potato soup flavoured with spring onions and smoked salmon; a grilled skate wing with coriander and capers; venison medallions with local Marchfeld asparagus and wild garlic ravioli (which was a little less exciting than it sounds); and a buttermilk mousse strewn with summer berries.

As I have said, Berlin does not have this style, but it does have a no-nonsense informality which many people find more refreshing.

Until recently, Berlin's hotels have been dire but in 1991 the Sauter family opened the Brandenburg Hof in a 19th century *Mietshaus* in the very centre of west Berlin.

It was the first luxury hotel in the city since the war to try to recreate a specifically Berlin style. As such, it was the first hotel to acknowledge the city's new status after the end of the cold war. The building was in a sorry state and the stucco work on the facades, as well as the interiors, had to be completely redone.

The result is stripped down, but elegant, with simple white interiors picked out by some good portraits

of old Prussian rulers. It is 100 miles, however, from the lavish splendours of the Palais Schwarzenberg.

Manfred Hetsig, the chef of the hotel's Quadriga restaurant, has tried to create a style all his own by combining elements of French and oriental food. The first time I ate at the Quadriga, 18 months ago, I felt he had not quite brought it off.

I ate there again in August: flat lobster on a bed of red lentils flavoured with coriander was a big success; mantoulet soup scattered with truffles (with a few gnocchetti in it, which I initially took for lumps); fillet of blue perch with tomato butter; glazed duck breast

with a Panang curry sauce and a mixture of diced artichokes and potatoes; and, finally, a black and white chocolate mousse "mosaic" on thin slices of mangoes.

The more oriental side of Hetsig's vocabulary had been toned down and replaced by a few eclectic touches which I think was a step in the right direction.

There was no concession made to Brandenburg or local produce whatsoever, which I thought was a pity. If anything the effect was rather baroque, indeed, almost Viennese.

**Hotel im Palais Schwarzenberg** (43 1 786 45 15). Room prices start at **£24.90** (€175) for a 'single room in the courtyard. The garden side costs more. Meals **£11.00** with wine.

**Hotel Brandenburg Hof** (49 30 214 05 0). Rooms from **DM275** (€115). Meals from **DM150** with wine.

## Bounty from the garden of France

Sue Style rediscovers the flourishing and innovative produce of the Loire valley

**L**ittle wonder that the Loire valley is known as the garden of France. Vines have been planted since Roman times in Vouvray and Montlouis, Chinon and Bourgueil.

Vegetables flourish in the fertile alluvial silt left by the Loire river, which slides gently by on its sandy bed. Orange-fleshed melons - brought there from Italy and greatly esteemed by John Evelyn when he visited Tours in 1644 - tumble about the fields.

Greengages (known in French as *reines-claudes* in memory of Queen Claude, François I's child bride, who planted them lavishly at Blois, back against the warm white stone of beautiful old walled gardens.

This is the home of the Bon Chretien pear (alias Williams or Bartlett), another Italian import first planted at Plessis-lès-Tours by the good Christian St Francis of Paola for his royal master Louis XI.

In the spring, asparagus spears thrust their way up through the light sandy soil and early potatoes are dug for prompt dispatch to Burgis, Paris's central market. Even mushrooms have found their feet here: 80 per

cent of the total French *champignon* production comes from the tufa caves around Saumur.

Appropriately enough, that most spellbinding of French gardens - Villandry - is to be found in the Loire valley. The Chateau was built in 1536 by Jean le Breton, a finance minister of François I, and the gardens laid out to a design which combined both French and Italian monastic influences.

The design was meticulously chronicled by one Aodrout de Cerceau - a marvellous piece of foresight, for 19th century "improvers" unfortunately went to work on the gardens, obliterating all traces of its splendid Renaissance past and relaying it as an English-style park.

In 1906, Joachim Carvallo, a Spaniard, came to the rescue (featured in Weekend

FT, August 10), completely reconstructing the gardens using du Cerceau's original descriptions as his guide.

Twinned with Hatfield House, Villandry is a must for gardener-cooks - except that one is apt to be torn between finding it utterly inspirational, and completely daunting in its perfect symmetry, artful composition and weedless perfection.

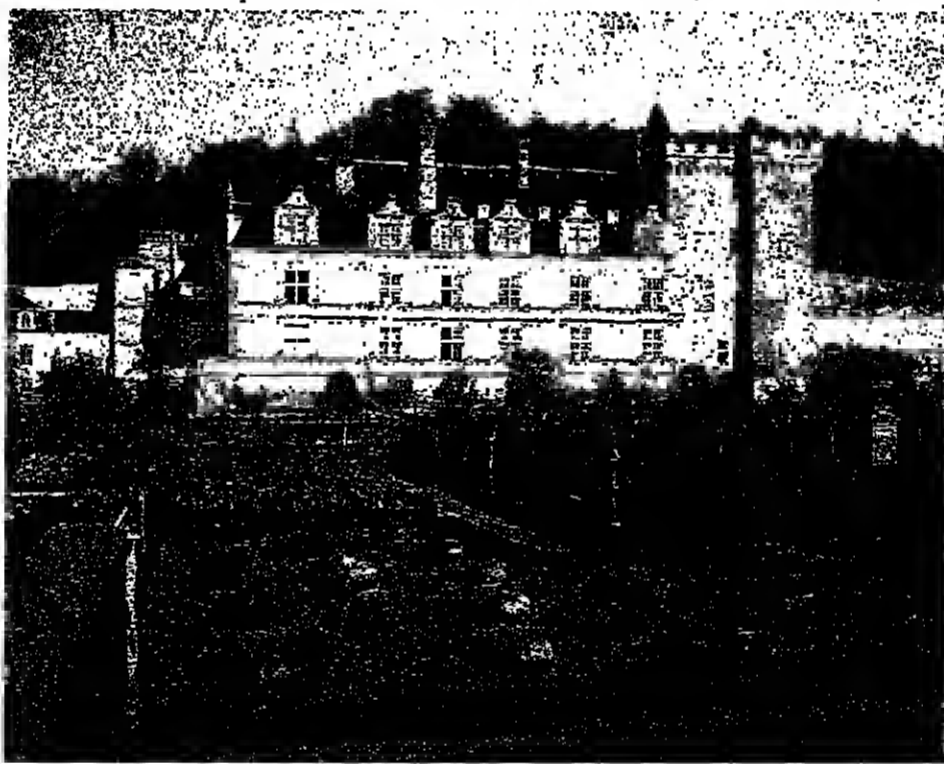
Seven gardeners work all year, hand-clipping the box and yew hedges which enclose the beds, pollarding the lime trees (1,260 of them) and grapevines which line the terraces, pruning the espaliered pear and apple trees that surround the kitchen garden, and tending, planting out and raising to the 80,000 bedding plants and 85,000 vegetable plants that are needed each year.

Olivier de Serres, the distinguished 16th century French agronomist who gave his name to the French word for a greenhouse, said: "It is desirable that gardens should be able to be viewed from above, either from the neighbouring buildings or from raised terraces all around the beds."

At Villandry the pure and marvellous symmetry and interplay of colours and textures can best be viewed either from the top of the castle keep or from the terraces set above the parterres.

Red-legged ruby chard, purple curly ornamental cabbages, green-fronted carrots and golden pumpkin globes are arranged in nine equal-sized (but differently composed) beds set about by manicured box hedges no more than a hand high. At the corner of each bed is a standard rose, symbolising a monk standing guard over his little patch of the monastery garden.

Another pilgrimage site for gardener-cooks visiting



Villandry: artful composition, pumpkins, and weedless perfection

the Loire is the Hotel-Restaurant Jean Bardet in Tours. The Bardets bought the property (formerly the Parc Belmont, an elegant 19th century park set in several acres of park land) in 1987 and transformed it into a restaurant of world renown (two Michelin stars) and a classy hotel.

Bardet is a cook of immense talent, a considerable wine taster, and an unconstructed cigar smoker - with wine (he recommends the marriage of a Rey del Mundo with a Gewurztraminer). He is also a vegetable zealot.

The French windows of the sunny, primrose-yellow dining room open out on to a patio with tables and chairs for pre- or post-prandial supping. Beyond this is Bardet's pride and joy: the kitchen garden.

There, under the watchful eye and green fingers of gardener Stephane Gaillaud, he has fun experimenting with different varieties of tomato (42 this year); at least 200 different herbs (pineapple sage, variegated lemon thyme, basil, scallion and poppy, purple and crinkly green), lettuce and chicories galore, peppers and chillies of gaudy hues and unexpected shapes, and

### Cookery The tomato glut

A light dish designed to take advantage of the tomato glut that we are currently enjoying in England.

**TOMATO GRATIN WITH SPINACH AND DILL** (serves 4-5)

An interesting mix of flavours, subtle yet rich, this is an attractive accompaniment for simply steamed or poached fish or chicken, when it acts as both vegetable and sauce. It can also be cooked and served in individual *coques sur le plat* dishes for a first course.

250g fresh spinach; 500g ripe tomatoes; a small bunch of dill (enough to give



2 good sprigs plus 2 tablespoons or so chopped dill; 1 medium tin (284ml) pouring double cream; 2 tablespoons slightly stale ciabatta bread-crumbs; 2 tablespoons freshly grated Parmigiano cheese; a small nugget of butter.

Scald the cream with a couple of sprigs of dill and simmer until reduced by one-third to half. Wash the spinach, steam it, squeeze it dry and season it with salt and pepper. Skin, core and slice the tomatoes thickly.

Spread the spinach over the base of a lightly buttered gratin dish. Sprinkle half the chopped dill over it. Cover with half the tomato slices, overlapping them as necessary.

Season with salt, pepper and the rest of the dill. Cover with the remaining tomato slices and finish with more salt and pepper. Pour on the dill cream. Sprinkle the crumbs mixed with the cheese evenly over the top, and bake on a pre-heated baking sheet at 220°C (425°F) gas mark 7 for about 15 minutes until thoroughly hot.

Philippa Davenport

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## The fighting Irish cheese makers

Kieran Cooke samples everything from Gubbeen to Cooleeney

**T**here was a time when asking for the cheeseboard in a restaurant in Ireland was equivalent to requesting a piece of haddock in a steak house. Either the waiter would deny all knowledge of such dangerous edible items or, after considerable scratching around in the lower reaches of the kitchen, a piece of rock hard, funereal looking cheddar accompanied by a soggy digestive biscuit would be placed on the table.

Times and tastes have changed. The growth in tourism, plus a rise in Irish living standards, has resulted in a move away from the traditional dessert

of apple pie with lashings of cream, to an appreciation of cheeses, many of them locally produced.

"Ireland's cheese makers have been battling away, exporting their produce to England and the continent for many years," says David Brown of the Big Cheese Company in Dublin. "In the past three years the Irish have discovered the quality and variety of cheeses being produced here. Irish cheese is still more appreciated abroad than at home but things are changing."

For many years the Dutch have purchased large quantities of Irish Gouda type cheeses such as Doolin and Coolea. In England, France,

Germany and Italy there is a growing market for Cashel Blue, which, when mature, registers in the cheese chart somewhere between a Stilton and a Gorgonzola.

Many of Ireland's farmhouse cheese makers are settlers from England, the Netherlands or Germany - referred to by the locals as "blow-ins" or, in the case of the big expatriate community in the region of West Cork, "The Green Raj".

More than 30 Irish cheeses are now being marketed. Neal's Yard Dairy in Covent Garden is one of the biggest importers, selling through its retail outlets and supplying a growing number of restaurants and delicatessens.

"Irish cheese is one of our best sellers and demand has really grown over the past two or three years," says Caroline Howell of Neal's Yard. "Ireland has a good image of lush pastures and fresh produce. The Irish farmhouse producers are also innovative and not afraid to give new methods a try."

Irish cheese makers still lack the finance to market their produce effectively in a highly competitive sector. Certain technical skills are also lacking. Quantities of Irish cheese are exported to Neal's Yard, matured and then re-exported to Ireland. Neal's top restaurateurs say the country still lacks

the vital expertise to mature cheese properly.

Cashel Blue, which accounts for about half of Ireland's cheese exports, is now available in many supermarkets in England and Ireland. Other cheeses either fail to meet the supermarkets' requirements for long shelf life, are not available in sufficient volume or are not price competitive.

A few choice Irish cheeses: **Boile**: a mild cow or goat's cheese from Virginia, in County Cavan. Hand-rolled into balls and preserved in sunflower oil. Excellent as a starter on toast or in a salad. **Cooleeney**: similar to a Camembert. When allowed to mature and served at

room temperature, it develops a rich, fresh flavour. From Thurles in County Tipperary.

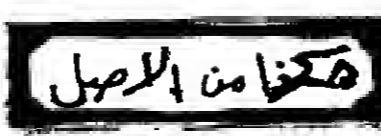
**Gubbeen**: from Scull, County Cork. A semi-hard vegetarian cheese, either plain or calcium-fortified.

**Millemore**: One of the oldest Irish cheeses. Packs a considerable punch with a healthy farmyard odour about it. From County Cork.

**Orla**: another Cork product, a hard and dry sheep cheese which has won several awards.

**The Big Cheese Company**, Trinity Street, Dublin. Tel: **Dublin 6711889**.

**Neal's Yard Dairy**, Covent Garden, London. Tel: **0171-379 7646**.





FOOD AND DRINK

Wine

The perfect warming autumn drink

Jancis Robinson points out the strengths of the world's most planted red wine grape

What would you guess is the world's most planted red wine grape? Did I hear Cabernet Sauvignon? Please. Cabernet is beaten into fourth place by its Bordeaux cousin Merlot, which is so much easier to ripen there.

And Carignan still sprawls over so much of the Languedoc-Roussillon, in spite of attempts to bribe vignerons there to pull it out, that it covers even more ground. But the red wine grape that is planted on a greater area of vineyard than any of these is one that many even quite serious wine drinkers may never have heard of: Grenache or rather Garnacha as it is known in its birthplace and most significant home, Spain.

Provided yields are low (no irrigation) and, preferably, vines are old, Grenache/Garnacha can turn out some exceptionally user-friendly reds. Unifoliated and given no oak ageing, the wines can be juicy, robust fruit juices. Painstakingly made into wine, using every trick to squeeze as much of the essence of the vineyard into the bottle, the wines can be

tough as old boots in youth but display an amazing array of spices and herbs throughout their life. The one characteristic shared by any Grenache worth bottling is - sorry about this - relatively high alcohol. These are wines worth taking seriously. Too heavy by far for summer, warming Grenache-based wines are exceptionally good at softening the blow of plummeting temperatures. Gignondas, Vacqueyras and superior Cotes-du-Rhone-Villages have been delivering thrills from the Greater Chateaufort region for many years. Merchants such as Yapp

Bros. of Mere, Wiltshire; Justerini & Brooks, of London SW1; and Edinburgh and Gauntleys, of Nottingham, can supply. It has been only in the last year or so, however, that winemakers in its Aragon homeland have rediscovered pride in Garnacha, spurred on by the first vintage of Basa (2000, Thresher group) made by Rioja winemaker Tebas Rodriguez of Remeluri for Adams of South-wold, Suffolk. Now we are seeing all sorts of exciting variations on this theme. A legacy of the House of Aragon's influence is the importance of Grenache in Sardinia, where it is known

(rather than trained on wires) anyway. Perhaps the most extraordinary Garnachas ever will come from Friarato, a strange yet extremely sought-after slice of Catalonian slate currently yielding all manner of Clos de This and That, all intensely mineral and some of them brutally uncompromising. It is already too late, alas, to call them bargains. Recommendations: Marques de Aragon Garnacha Puro 1995, about £3.70; from Moreno Wines of London W2; Harvey Nichols of London SW1; Peter Green of Edinburgh; Grogglossom of London NW6; Noel Young of

Cambridge; Oxford Wine Company of Oxford. A basic, juicy, drink-me style from the San Isidro co-operative in Catalunya, way south of Navarre and Rioja. "Puro" presumably means "not blended with anything more expensive". Agramont Garnacha 1995, £3.99; bigger Tesco's and a range of independents. Particularly old Navarre vines are responsible for this herbal remedy for autumn blues. Guelbenzu Jardin 1995, Navarra, £4.99; Majestic. Gorgeously juicy, deeply coloured, low-yielding old-vine produce. Full, rich, lively with a dry finish but burst-

ing with ripe fruit. More successful than Guelbenzu's grander Cabernet-based Evo. Vacqueyras 1994 Domaine Cabassol, £6.49; Oddbins. Sweet, spicy and lively. Vacqueyras 1990 Domaine Le Courrou, £7.75; Berry Bros & Rudd, of London SW1. Spicy, herbs, gorgeous southern Rhone stuffing, yet absolutely ready to drink. Guts and potential. The Fergus 1994, Tim Adams, £5.99; Australian Wine Club, Tel: 0800-716993. A South Australian variant with a future. Very rich and gutsy, but much milder than any Rhone. Chateau Rayas from 2007; C.W. Loeb of London SE1 and Adams of South-wold. The Chateaufort-du-Pape for insiders, depending unusually heavily on Grenache. Get your hands on as much of this, its sidekick Clos Figant and its stablemate, Domaine de Fonsalette, as you can afford.

Eating in Treat of the game season

Working parents know the problem. Time. Trying to juggle work and family commitments and treat old friends to the odd week-day dinner party often requires organisational skills better suited to devising a German railway timetable. But help is at hand. Hugo Arnold, author of Simple Suppers and master of the quick dinner party, has put together six stylish menus for the autumn - and all can be put together in roughly half an hour.

Of all the widely available game at this time of year, it is partridge that shines above all others. Not only for its succulence - its delicate gaminess perfect for any novice hesitant about the season's treat - but also for its ease of handling. One par per person for an occasion, half a bird if the accompaniments are of sufficient substance and quantity. Serving is a delight and even if you do not want to be troubled with a whole bird on the plate, removing the breast and legs is as easy as slicing ham, well, almost. Partridge used to be as predominant in England, if not more so, than pheasant is today. Before the 1950s and the introduction of intensive farming, the hedgerows - remember them? - were thick with partridge. No longer. The partridge family has plummeted throughout Europe, so much so that prices have soared and we can only laugh at the common Victorian complaint of too much partridge on the dinner table. They often ate grey partridge however, while we tend to eat the more common red partridge. The latter is altogether a more meaty bird and, say the experts, not as fine, although I have to admit to being addicted. Wild game is about as free-range as food can be and so much the better for it. No hormones or growth promoters to speak of, no unsightly sheds to lock them up in. Buy from a reputable game

dealer if possible, some of the larger supermarkets sell them, but their hanging policy is lenient to say the least. The result is a bird lacking sufficient clout. A hot oven, game chips and bread sauce may be the traditional route for game in this country but braising makes for trouble-free cooking and helps to keep the meat moist. And instead of those darkened juices, you get gently steamed lighter flavours mixing with the vegetables. Rich, earthy wild mushrooms are the season's other



treat, what better way to enjoy them than on toast, in this instance enlivened with creamy tangy goat's cheese and opulent truffle oil. Watercress, its pepperness the perfect foil for all this indulgence, is one of England's most rewarding native leaves, well able to compete with the often weak-flavoured imported rocket. A weed we are still asked to pay too much for. Figs remain a favourite fast dessert - particularly with a full-flavoured expensive honey such as acacia. All recipes serve four.



Abraham Bloembergen's 'Still Life with Fruit and a Dead Partridge' (1964-1965) in the Rafee Valls Gallery, London

Hugo Arnold's 30-minute dinner party menus - No.1

Starter BRUSCHETTA OF WILD MUSHROOMS, GOAT'S CHEESE AND TRUFFLE OIL

Four slices of good country bread; olive oil; salt and pepper; 1 garlic clove, cut in half; 450g assorted wild mushrooms, picked over; 1 goat's cheese crumb, crumbled (about 50g); 1 tablespoon chopped parsley; truffle oil (available in most good delicatessens). Method: Brush the bread with olive oil, season with salt and pepper and grill on both sides until golden brown, rub with a garlic clove and set aside. Heat four tablespoons of olive oil in a frying pan and when the oil is hot, but not smoking, add the mushrooms. Toss thoroughly in the oil and cook over a moderate heat for between three and four minutes, or until the mushrooms begin to release their juices. Add the cheese and parsley and continue cooking for a further two minutes, or until the cheese melts. Arrange the toast on four plates, spoon over the mushroom mixture, drizzle over a scant teaspoon of the truffle oil and serve.

Main Course BRAISED PARTRIDGE WITH ROOT VEGETABLES

Four partridges; olive oil; 50g unsalted butter; salt and pepper; 3 shallots, peeled and quartered; 2 carrots, peeled and quartered lengthways; 2 sticks celery, trimmed and halved; 8 baby turnips, peeled (larger ones should be halved); 1 small bay leaf; 1 glass white wine. Method: Heat 3 tablespoons of olive oil in a heavy casserole dish until almost smoking, and brown the partridges. Remove, pour off the oil and replace with three tablespoons of fresh oil and the butter. Add the vegetables and bay leaf, toss in the oil and butter, season with salt and pepper and replace the partridges. Sprinkle with wine. Cover the birds loosely with a piece of tin foil, cut on the lid and braise over a moderate heat for 25 minutes, or until the partridges are cooked.

Remove the birds and keep warm. Add the wine to the vegetables, turn up the heat and simmer for four minutes. Serve the birds on top of the vegetables with the sauce spooned around the edge of the plate.

BLACK OLIVE, ORANGE AND WATERCRESS SALAD

Four generous handfuls of watercress, picked over; 1 orange; 10g pitted black olives; olive oil; lemon juice; salt and pepper. Method: Wash a crisp, whole, cut off the skin and pith of the orange. Cut out segments, removing any pith. Halve the olives. Mix two tablespoons of olive oil with lemon juice to taste. Season with salt and pepper and add a teaspoon of water, whisk to emulsify and add the watercress, orange segments and black olives. Just before serving toss well so everything is coated with the dressing.

Dessert GRILLED FIGS, HONEY AND ICE-CREAM

Eight ripe figs; 2 tablespoons honey; 1 tub of 9 soft-peaken ice-cream. Method: Cut the figs in quarters, but leave attached at the bottom so they can hold their shape. Place in a shallow roasting tin and drizzle the honey into each tin. Place under a pre-heated grill for five minutes, or until the edges just start to blacken. Remove and serve with a generous scoop of ice-cream.

Wine Jancis Robinson's recommendation with the main course is Kautz-Ironstone Cabernet Franc 1993 California, £5.99, from Majestic in the UK.

At 1 Kingsway, London WC2, the conversion of a former bank branch into another big bar-cum-restaurant is almost complete. To be called Bank, it is to open on October 18 (0171-408 9999) and will harness the managerial talents of Eric Garnier, who opened book and UK television series are launched next month. Two Fat Ladies, with Paterson and Clarissa Dick-

son Wright, will be screened on October 9 on BBC 2, the day that the book of the same name is published by Ebury Press (£17.99). Flamboyant does not do justice to Paterson's character and culinary certainty, so I am sure that the series will be full of genuine fun and excellent recipes. For book inquiries ring: 01621-819896. Jill James

Eating out Novelli's new temptations

Jean-Christophe Novelli's new restaurant will be no disappointment to those who had admired his skill at the Four Seasons Hotel, London. His new premises, in London's upwardly mobile Clerkenwell, trailed in this column recently, abide by the now established formula of having a separate "brasserie" where Novelli's cooking can be enjoyed at a fraction of the prices charged in the upstairs "restaurant". Novelli had Michelin stars at both the Provence Restaurant in the Gordale Mill Hotel in Hampshire and the Four Seasons but this is his first opportunity as chef/proprietor. My starter of a pancake filled with wild mushrooms and topped

with parmesan "crackling" gave way to a sunny dish of sea bass in tomato oil with sun-dried tomatoes and little Niçoise olives. Truly superb was a pig's trotter stuffed with wild mushrooms and calves' tongue which came with a celeriac purée. Pudding was a novel strawberry tart tatin. If the cooking is this good already the decorators were just leaving as I arrived - then it augurs well for the future. Meals at the restaurant: £18 for two-courses, £27 for three, and £32.50 for four, before wine. Downstairs: starters £3.50, mains £6.95. Maison Novelli, 29 Clerkenwell Green, London EC1. Tel: 0171-251 6806. Giles MacDonogh

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THE LAST OF THE GOLD RUSH- 1995 BORDEAUX OFFER & 1996 HARVEST UPDATE

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TRAVEL

Travels with a querulous old lady

Nicholas Woodsworth is going in search of the real America, but first he has to equip himself and find the right means of transport

Great or small, elegant or shambling, epic or insignificant, all journeys have a beginning. Such starting points may not always be quite as ceremonial and dignified as the traveller has imagined they will be - Christopher Columbus himself spent four ignominious years traipsing around Spain after the royal court of Ferdinand and Isabelle before he was finally granted a charter of exploration and sailed west.

My own discovery of America began with still less decorum, over a polystyrene tub of fast food in the parking lot outside Nick's Canteen in Hull, Quebec.

On a sunny Saturday morning in late summer, Nick was doing a roaring trade in nougats, a French Canadian speciality of chips drowned in glutinous brown gravy and melted cheese. It is the ne plus ultra of road food and, I thought, for anyone about to take to the highways of North America, as appropriate a symbol of departure as a bottle of champagne is to a new ship.

But it was not Nick's roadside fare that had brought me to this part of town. Like almost everyone else, busy wielding plastic forks there had come to patronise the even busier establishment on the opposite side of the parking lot, the Canadian Tire Corporation.

Canadian Tire stores are a veritable national icon, a country-wide chain offering a vast range of items dear to all Canadian hearts - snow tyres and chainsaws, checked flannel shirts and fishing rods, canoe paddles and thermal clothing, beer coolers and anti-freeze. While other national retail stores are these days barely keeping their heads above the surface of a stagnant economy, Canada's robust, out-



door, hockey-puck culture keeps the CTC humming along, season in, season out, coast to coast. I am not sure that a large part of its present good fortune was not due largely to one customer - me. The brand new but already grubby-splattered North American road atlas I was poring over - an essential item to my imminent 10,000-mile tour of the continent - was the last in an endless series of purchases there. Getting outfitted for life on the road is a serious business. The deadly mistake most travellers tend towards is over-provision. When novelist John Steinbeck no slouch at travel - set out across the continent in the journey recounted in Travels with Charley, he estimated that he loaded Rosinante, his heavy-duty camping truck, with four times too much equipment. Eventually, his rear tyres blew out. I had managed to resist the temptation of stocking up on hockey pucks, but despite my best efforts I now possessed a small mountain of gear - everything from spark-plug wrenches to emergency whisky supply, from cheese grater to, yes indeed, thermal underwear. Who can tell what adventures and contingencies the highway might throw up? It all lay neatly stowed away

in my own Rosinante, an 11-year-old Volkswagen van that I regard less as a doughty steed than a querulous elderly lady.

I can hardly say I blame her for her tetchy character. When I had started searching the second-hand lots for a vehicle suitable for a continental tour, I quickly despaired. I was looking for a vehicle in which I could eat, sleep and live comfortably. At the same time, I wanted something that I could park inconspicuously in any setting - in a suburban side-street, on a wilderness riverbank, at the shoulder of a rural highway.

But today's recreational vehicles are anything but inconspicuous. The prime tools of what has become a vast consumer sub-culture of mobile Americans, they are monsters. I did not want a 32ft modular home on wheels. I abandoned the lots, and began talking to the locals. And when I finally came across a little, tan-coloured VW passenger van slowly sliding, with 140,000km on the dial, into a sedate and sedentary old age, I stopped looking.

Some inanimate objects, whatever the grammarians may say, have gender, and this, indubitably, was a she. But not when I got to work on her, a very happy she. I subjected her to rigorous physical indignities passenger vans half her age would have objected to.

I ripped out her seats. I stripped off her worn carpets. I roamed junkyards, auto wreckers, lumber yards, curtain-makers, mattress stuffers and the aisles of Canadian Tire looking for bits and pieces to turn her into a respectable camping van. I enlisted mechanics to stop her tappets knocking and lubricate her aching joints. She still whines on hills. She still burns too much oil. Her rust patches, the liver spots of automobile old-



age, have not gone away. Back to the daily working grind, she is not sure she likes it. Why travel the roads of America, you may be asking, in a geriatric van? Why, indeed, travel the roads of America at all? Twenty years ago I left home in the quiet Quebec countryside for what I considered more exciting pastures. Since then I have as a journalist been on the go most of the time, visiting remote and far-flung spots. As a North American I disdained North America as banal and everyday.

It is only recently that I have realised that the continent is as strange as any other place. Perhaps stranger, less attached to the past than anywhere else, it is perpetually throwing up new and sometimes unaccountable forms of existence. Some visions it offers the world seem hopeful. Others are dark and frightening. It seemed time to go back to my own continent and rediscover it. But I have learned that jetting in, seeing the sights, and jetting out again to the next city is not the best way to do it.

When I spent a morning in a Quebec garage chatting with Guy Pelletier as he probed the greasy innards of my VW, he may have given me a smoother running motor. But he also gave me something no package tour or luxury Quebec holiday could. Will the looming prospect of Quebec's independence from the rest of Canada come to anything? I do not know, but the dozen encounters from the simple buying of an old van have given me some idea of what many ordinary Quebecers fear and wish for in life.

A sense of the everyday reality of places comes from doing every day things. And so on that sunny Saturday morning I speared my last gravy-soaked chip, opened my road atlas to a small chunk of a large continent, and climbed aboard. Whether Kansas farmers, Texas border patrolmen, or LA screen-hopefuls waiting on tables, there are a thousand Guy Pelletiers out there. On the road, putting in a none-too-hurried fashion past a thousand towns, I set off hoping to encounter something of their America.

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TRAVEL

A hidden pearl in East Sussex

Antony Thorncroft looks at an architectural gem in Bexhill-on-Sea that is due for a new lease of life

Bexhill-on-Sea is not the most thriving of England's seaside resorts. The train journey there is ponderous; road links are not much better. Anyone desperate for sea breezes is likely to be distracted by the more obvious charms of adjacent Hastings or nearby Eastbourne. And that is what makes Bexhill so intriguing: it is the never-quite-happened Sussex resort, the pearl that failed to escape the oyster. There are signs of what might have been when you arrive at the cavernous station. Crowds were obviously expected. And for a brief time they came: thousands of well-scrubbed children, packed off to the dozens of prep schools that skirted the town. Hardly one remains, and the station looks sad and lonely. Step outside and life perks up immediately. Bexhill was largely created by the De La Warr family in the Edwardian era. The family had owned the land for centuries and decided to develop a select, well-planned, resort of a kind to appeal to retired Indian officers. Little has changed in almost a century - the same grid pattern; the same red brick buildings; the main shopping streets crammed with small specialist retailers which have kept out by the supermarkets and the chain stores. Bexhill has matured slowly, in step with its elderly population. By the time you reach the sea front you are lulled into a 1950s time warp. And there suddenly it is - a building of such modernist pretensions that it would warm the concrete heart of Le Corbusier: the De La Warr Pavilion. Bexhill's palace of fun and physical fitness built in 1935, to rival similar modernist fantasies at Worthing and Eastbourne. But Bexhill went all the way. The 9th Earl De La Warr could get away with virtually anything. The socialist mayor of a conservative town, he wanted a contemporary building. He ensured that the open, anonymous, competition was judged by a modernist, who selected the designs of the émigrés, Mendelssohn and Chermayeff. The welded steel frame building, a first for the UK, coated in concrete and mica chippings, was immediately acclaimed as a little bit of Barbours in England. Its mixture of plain white walls and glass curves are familiar to any addict of televised versions of classic 1930s crime novels. Hercule Poirot has spent many hours tripping around the De La Warr. Now its faded charms are to be smartened up. For the Pavilion is a pale shadow of its initial glory. The flat roof where Bright Young Things played quits and physically jerked is a safety risk; the 1,200-seat theatre is deserted by 1960s fabrics; the clean lines of the entrance hall are impeded; the exterior has lost its mica coating. The lottery has given £500,000 to provide seedcorn for a project which will eventually cost £11m. If all goes according to plan the heritage lottery will eventually provide 75 per cent of the total expense, with the remainder coming from the local council and friends. The Sainsbury family had holiday homes here; a De La Warr founded Delaware, so there may be hope in the US; German architectural foundations may like to support the Mendelssohn. There is great goodwill towards this Grade I Listed building. There is no point in beautifying the pavilion without improving its creative output, which has declined into one-nighters from the likes of The Barron Knights. The new artistic director hopes to tie in the building with a new audience by expanding the visual arts side, providing home to a sculpture collection of the 1930s. A more challenging programme will capture a wider audience. Comedian Eddie Izzard, whose career began selling ice-cream at the pavilion, started his world tour there on September 1. There is hope. It is unlikely that a renovated pavilion will disturb the calm pace of Bexhill. But it is a good example of lottery cash spreading into the forgotten corners of the nation. It nicely balances other lottery projects that are enhancing the Sussex coast. Perhaps the most exciting developments are at Brighton, which is smartening up after decades of neglect. The ruin of the West Pier, closed for more than 20 years and now detached from the shore by storms and disrepair, has been awarded £950,000 from the Heritage Lottery Fund to finance emergency holding works, with the prospect of more for a project which might eventually cost £35m.



The De La Warr Pavilion, Bexhill: one thing that happened in the never-quite-happened Sussex resort

This seems a substantial sum, but the West Pier has always been Brighton's classier pier. Is Grade One Listed, and is certain to pay its way once repaired. Almost opposite the pier is Brighton, or rather Hove's, most elegant district, Brunswick Square, which houses the most imaginative lottery development in the region. Number 13 has been taken over by the Brunswick Town Charitable Trust, which plans to return it to its pristine 1885 glory. The current Janeites obsession with the domestic life of the past - especially of upstairs living in the Regency Period (and just after) - should make it an instant draw. Along the way at No.10, the basement has been acquired. It is almost untouched after 125 years and will provide a fascinating insight into the downstairs life of the period. So far the lottery has contributed £37,000, but more will be needed to complete the £2m development, which includes a significant educational programme. There is in the £20m plan to upgrade the Dome complex, with a concert hall, a theatre, and an exhibition space, and Brighton is certainly shaking off the seaweed. But you should never need an excuse to visit Brighton; Bexhill requires a detour, and the De La Warr Pavilion is worth the effort. By the millennium it should be the finest gallery of 20th century art on the south coast.

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FASHION

# The Jean Muir legacy lives on

Marion Hume says the label long associated with jersey is as desirable as ever

There is a marvelous buzz about British fashion right now. This is London Fashion Week and there is an almost palpable excitement in the capital about the talents of Alexander McQueen, Hussein Chalayan, Antonio Berardi and Clements Ribetto. But among such names is one which does not cater for those requiring buttock-revealing trousers or something angular in PVC. In among the "hot", "cool", "hip" and "fabulous" is a name that has garnered respect for 30 years and one that has long been associated with this season's most fashionable fabric, jersey. The name is Jean Muir.

When Jean Muir died last year, her loyalists stockpiled her clothes. There are many stories of women throughout the country buying up all the "Miss Muirs" they could find. For Miss Muir's customers worshipped those easy, elegant designs that did not go out of date six months after purchase. Thankfully the legacy continues in a manner that would make Miss Muir not only satisfied, but proud. Dedicated Jean Muir customers can relax in the knowledge that the clothes are as desirable as ever, while those women perhaps too young to have aspired to a Jean Muir outfit can check out the label for the first time. At the headquarters at 22 Bruton Street, Miss Muir is mentioned in every second breath by her staff, yet no one seems tempted to set the styles she pioneered in aspic.

"Miss Muir believed in looking forward. People are mistaken if they think that was not the case," says Sindy Stemp, head of marketing and press. "She welcomed new ideas," says Joyce Fenton, a member of the design team. "Miss Muir kept an archive, but we don't pore over it. I don't think she would really have wanted us to rehab old designs," says Angela Gill, a designer.

In the run-up to the label's spring/summer 1997 show, everyone pitches in, from Roz Conti who started off as a house model along with Joanna Lumley and now plans the show, to Tamsin de Roemer, the model on whom all the prototypes are fitted and who also designs a range of handbags for the company.

The diversification of roles among the staff appears to work: this private company comprises just 22 people and achieves what would in other fashion companies of similar worldwide renown require a cast of thousands. Staff turnover at Jean Muir is low (even the younger members in their 30s have been there since leaving college) and they all know what is required, inside out.

"On the surface, we're like ducks gliding on a pond," jokes Gill. "But underneath we are paddling like fury."

The company has survived the death of its founder in part because of the work practices Jean Muir established.

"Miss Muir taught us all the A-Z of the company. We have always had to do a bit of everything including taking stock inquiries, so we are familiar with what the customer wants," Stemp says.

Miss Muir also practised what she preached. She would answer phone inquiries, do a bit of stock allocation here, a bit of dispatch there.

The Jean Muir clothes age range easily spans from 20 to 80. The new collection, while it does not ignore the core customer, has plenty to offer the younger woman. "We are in our 30s, and we thought

**The Jean Muir offering has always been slightly out of kilter with wacky London**

about what we need," Fenton says, pointing to some skinny cardigans in plush cashmere. There are flat-fronted trousers in the range for the first time. "Miss Muir didn't like waistbands. She thought them restrictive.

"These are slim, yet have enough give to be comfortable," Fenton says. She hopes that larger customers, addicted to the elasticated waistbands that remain part of the Jean Muir collection, may also fall for the smoother, less bulky line.

In the new collection, the fourth (including two transitional collections) since Miss Muir died, there are some star pieces; a caramel suede jacket with hand-crafted silver buttons; a navy blue wool crepe suit of short jacket with wide lapels and a fashionable to-the-knee skirt; a collarless jacket that has a soft, sinuous silhouette, avoiding the barrel look notorious with this style.

Other pieces are classic Miss Muir, each clearly designed for the three-dimensional body in motion. There are simple pieces, easy pieces, pieces that co-ordinate with what the customer bought last year or 10 years before that. There are garments that could be pulled together into a lightweight, co-ordinating, travelling wardrobe, whatever the woman's age or size.

Then there is the perennial jersey, (Miss Muir

(From top left to right) Beige crêpe boucè long-line fitted jacket, £827 with matching palazzo trousers, £360; long azure jersey dress with stitched pocket and cuff detail, £300; long navy jersey dress with fluted sleeves and scoop tie-neck, £265.

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Jewellery throughout by Ian Young for Jean Muir.

always preferred viscose jersey to silk jersey) of special interest in this season of 1970s/Halston/Studio 54 revivalist style. Everyone is trying to do jersey clothes now, but the harsh truth is that many of them look horrible because slippery jersey is devilishly difficult to work with and infuriatingly easy to ruin under a sewing machine. Jean Muir built her business on jersey - which she always maintained she tailored as well as draped. Her floppy capri pants, her to-the-ankle tunic dresses, her spaghetti strapped or fluted cap-sleeved evening sheaths are probably the best you will find anywhere. The Jean Muir offering has always been slightly out of kilter with wacky London and more in tune with what the American designers call "sportswear". The customer in search of something slinky by Calvin Klein or something packable and versatile by Donna Karan overlooks at her peril the immaculately made and competitively priced versions of labalad Jean Muir. Miss Muir's spirit is very much in residence at 22 Bruton Street, where a lively pencil sketch of a young

Miss Muir faces a more dour drawing of her with her signature precision-cut bob. It would be impertinent and insensitive to ask if she is missed, but does the company, I ask, feel different day-to-day? "It is different and it isn't different. We all know what we have to do," Gill says. "We do what we do as Miss Muir would have done it. She had such a strong personality, she was such an influence," Stemp says. "We still think she's looking on," Fenton adds. "We hope, from up there, she can see the figures!"



Short, suede shirt/jacket in sand colour with fine punching and starting silver buttons, £288; black ribbed sleeveless top, £143; black jersey palazzo trousers, £350. Photographer: Andrew Lamb; Hair and make-up: Alex Babsky

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HOW TO SPEND IT

# Time for frills and furbelows to bite the dust

A wind of change is blowing through the world of interiors. Lucia van der Post is swept along on a wave of enthusiasm

**A**nouska Hempl's new hotel, handily called The Hempl, is to interior design what haute couture is to the way you and I dress. In other words, it represents a dramatic extreme but one that few of us would wish to emulate precisely.

It is a testament to the power of white, light, space and... er, minimalism. As you enter the foyer you notice that it is almost entirely empty - not a picture on the walls, not a frill to be seen, not an ornament, nothing to divert the eye from the sense of enveloping calm and, yes, luxury.

For the extraordinary thing about the hotel that Anouska Hempl has created out of five stucco houses in Craven Hill Gardens in Paddington Square is that while it may sound bleak, it exudes a sense of great sensuality and luxury. The secret lies in the quality both of the materials used and of the few (mainly eastern) artefacts, in the sense of space and proportion and the aura of almost monastic tranquility that pervades it.

In the introduction to his new book, John Pawson perfectly captures that sense. "What I look for is the excitement of empty space. It has the capacity to bring architecture alive."

Make no mistake, this is not just coincidence. It is the way the interior world is moving. It is getting cooler, cleaner, whiter. All those with cluttered houses still

bearing testimony to the prevailing chintz and pot-pourri aesthetic of the 1980s will perhaps identify with this urge to simplify, to eliminate, to clean up.

Serious designers, such as John Pawson and Dieter Rams, the great German industrial designer, while not going as far as Adolf Loos in equating ornament with crime, seem to imbue the search for simplicity with a moral force.

They see it as one of the prime functions of designers to help us "clear up the chaos in which we live". Pawson quotes Rams at some length. "Our only chance is the return to simplicity. To me, one of the most significant principles is to omit the unimportant in order to emphasise the important."

But this simplicity should not be muddled with utilitarianism. It is not ekimped or mean. There is nothing of the hair-shirt about it and everything of the sybarite. This reworking of the old Mies van der Rohe creed of "less is more" does not mean that it is less expensive. It may well mean the reverse. For the less there is, the more the detail and the quality really matter.

This new wind looks to be something of a challenge for those companies specialising in frills and furbelows. What do you do if your reputation is founded on chintz and shabby country-house chic when the popular prejudice begins to run in favour of chroite and steel?



How to achieve much with very little. A chair and a few straw hats add up to a serenely beautiful vista - one of the images from Pure Style, published by Ryland Peters & Small

This weekend sees the start of Decorex, one of the biggest trade fairs for the interior design business. From the advance publicity, it would seem that not a lot has changed. There are a few nods in the new direction but there is certainly no question of brave new initiatives. There is almost nothing that will seem fresh and exciting to those who hanker for a Danny Lane table or a Ross Lovegrove chair, or have been attracted by the aesthetics of the loft and the warehouse.

**O**ne of the problems, of course, is that throwing out a drawing-room, or swapping a Smallbone kitchen for a Bulthaup is a lot more expensive than swapping designer jeans. For financial reasons alone change in the world of the chintz and brocade set comes slowly. Nevertheless, there are a few signs. Fabrics are, on the whole, less ornate. There are more stripes and checks and

plains. Weave and texture is beginning to outweigh chintz. There is a growing sense that superfluity should be not so blatant. As Ann Grafton, group market director at Colefax & Fowler, that most distinguished of traditional design companies, puts it: "On the whole, people are decorating in a much more simplified form but what we aim to give them is schemes that are not dominated by fashionable products. Design should stand the test of time. We aim to give quality that will last in things like curtains and upholstery. Then they can put in fun and fashion with the smaller things such as throws and cushions that are easier and less expensive to replace."

So while fashion in interiors is the hot new fad, it is a fad that takes money to embrace. It has always been there, but it evolved slowly. While bright young things were changing their power jackets and the shape of their trousers every season,



Earl Searfner's chairs for Knoll Associates used in a thoroughly 1980s way. From Pure Style

the home was left behind. They spent their money keeping up with Donna, Ralph and Calvin's latest offerings.

What has changed is that these days Donna, Ralph and Calvin themselves have a feeling that the worlds of clothes and interiors are moving closer together.

Continued on next page

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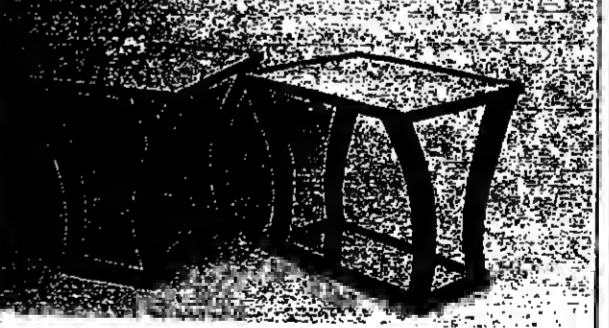
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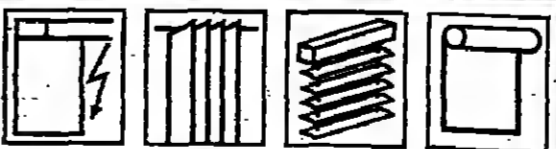


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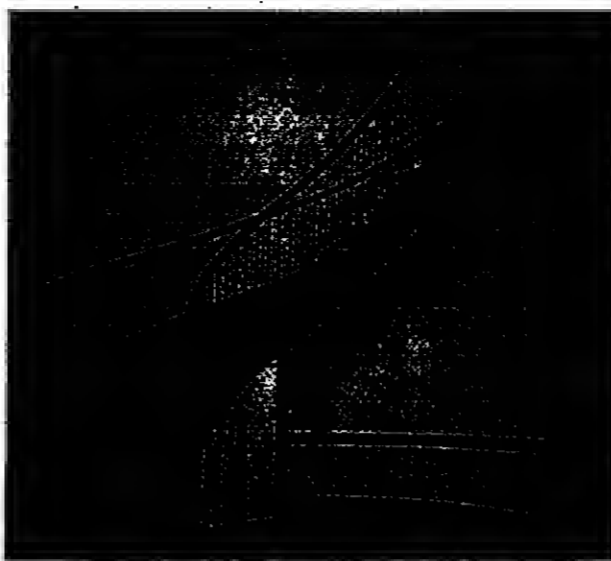
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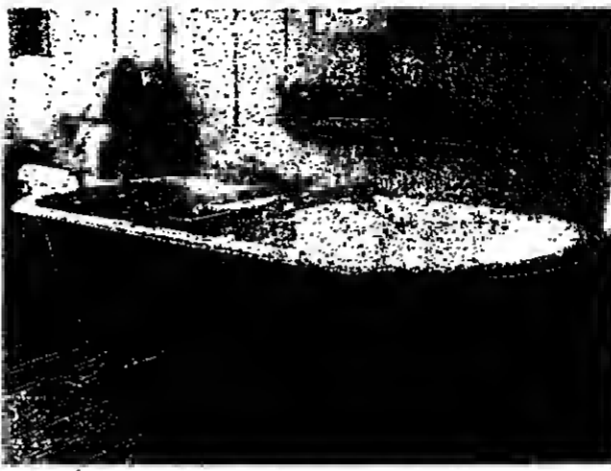
HOW TO SPEND IT



Clear lines, simple shapes, sisal matting and wooden floors - the classic ingredients of the 1990s interior. Just one of the many stimulating interior schemes from Pure Style



From John Pawson's book, *Minimum*: a Shaker staircase, made in 1841 at Pleasant Hill, Kentucky



An essay in the many tones of white. Creating a bathroom that is fresh and restful, from Pure Style



Table in aluminium, limestone and maple, £2,900 (plus VAT) from Villiers Brothers. Tel: 01277-889880

From previous page

spend their money on. All of which explains why a bright new interior (or...oops, lifestyle) magazine called *Wallpaper*, edited by Tyler Brulé, has high hopes of reaching a big new audience. The interior worlds of the

target audience, judging by *Wallpaper's* first issue, are heavily influenced by hip music, urban imagery, post-war design, Japanese-influenced food, the Internet, cinema and all things chrome and beautiful. They like 1970s-style Plüsch sofas, Knoll sofas, sheepskin rugs, homeopathic rem-

edies, steel wardrobes, catering, cookers and wooden floors. It's an eclectic look, given individuality with personal trophies from long-haul travel and junk shop trawls, married with clean classic furniture from the heyday of Scandinavian design. Where are the shops, the

manufacturers, that cater for this new breed? Few and far between and not, on the whole, at Decorex. No wonder Donna Karan and Calvin Klein are about to head this way with their pared-down offerings for 1990s interiors.

So how to achieve something of this new pared-down look? For those starting out with an unadorned abode, this is a relatively easy philosophy to embrace and stores such as Habitat and Ikea, the Conran Shop and Heal's are leading where the decorating brigades have only just begun to tread. There you may find cool white sofas, clear, unadorned glass, plain white cotton bedlinen, and lights of chrome or steel.

Those whose houses and interiors bear all the accumulated clutter of many years have a harder task. However, it can be done. A ruthless assessment of everything in a room is a good way to start. All the small bric-a-brac that is not of first-rate quality could be dispatched to spare-rooms,

attics or Oxford. Try substituting plain white or cream Roman blinds or American-style shutters for curtains. This immediately lets in light and air and makes the room seem bigger, less cluttered. If you are not overlooked, even try going without curtains. I recently embarked on a big clean-up. Out went the clutter. Out went the paint-effects on the wall in came white paint and shutters. Down came the blinds, pelmets and dress curtains on a large window in the dining-room - the difference now that the window is fully exposed is dramatic. The fitted carpet came up too and has been replaced, Victorian-style, with painted floorboards and sisal matting. This, too, makes the room look lighter and fresher.

Better floorboards than ours can be sanded and left fully exposed. Good, up-to-the-minute lighting systems, as invisible as possible, mean that lamps and the tables they stand on can

be dispensed with, again freeing up large areas of space.

The only real head-ache, I warn from experience, comes when you are faced with 41 different shades of white and you have, somehow, to choose between them.

Two good new books might be useful: *Minimum*, by John Pawson (Phaidon, £60) is a searching discourse on the appeal of minimalism, an exploration of the author's thoughts on architecture, art and life, accompanied by extraordinary photographs to show the power of minimalism. It is well worth reading. *Pure Style* by Jane Cumberbatch, (Ryland Peters & Small, £18.99) has none of the intellectual stimulation of the Pawson book but adopts a decorative approach which is accompanied by visual examples of how the pared-down, clean, white look can be brought to life. Charming, helpful and inspirational.

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PROPERTY

Small is beautiful in Cumbria

Gerald Cadogan finds a motorway service station which is a pleasure to use

It was hard to find a bank clearing or merchant, that would take him seriously, says Dunning, one of the founders of the UK's best motorway service station...

Penrith, whose directors, David Snowdon and cousin Nicky Birkett, have been John and Barbara Dunning's partners from the beginning. Petrol is 2p a litre below the usual rate.

He believes Michael Heseltine's Business Link project, co-ordinating specialist help and "coaching" people into small businesses, is a way forward which, for the first time, offers "real professional support to small firms".

of the UK's local businesses. He believes Michael Heseltine's Business Link project, co-ordinating specialist help and "coaching" people into small businesses, is a way forward which, for the first time, offers "real professional support to small firms".

community since the M6 would whizz people through with little local benefit. When the Ministry of Transport called for tenders for a large service area, "the big players didn't bite", seeing insufficient turnover.

So a new call for tenders went out, for an area of just 40 seats. "We began as a very small operation." Shell supplied the fuel, and later BP. In 1976 Westmorland opened its Mountain Lodge Hotel at the service area, with help from the English Tourist Board and the county council.

The money, and contracts such as maintaining outside parts of the service area, help the hill farmers to keep going without having to amalgamate as has happened in other hill areas of the region. "Encouraging the rural economy safeguards our upland landscapes more creatively than just resisting change - which induces decay," says Dunning.

Why London lags behind

Anne Spackman looks at the lack of luxury serviced flats in the capital

In most international cities across the world the serviced apartment is a recognised option on the property menu. There has been an explosion in the market in North America, where occupancy rates are running at 85 per cent.

luxury scale. He took a tour around the capital to scout out potential high-rise sites, should he ever decide to export his product across the Atlantic.

Other developers are ahead of him. The first new serviced apartment block to open its doors, two months ago, was Citadines on the Gloucester Road in Kensington. Of 92 apartments, 90 are already occupied.

on a site which was in a poor state and had changed hands several times. With London now such a buoyant development market, opportunities in such good locations are likely to be rare.

Richard Crosswaite, of Knight Frank, says: "There is a knock-on effect from the world's best hotels to the residential market. People expect to find the same marble bathrooms, power showers and air-conditioning they find in luxury hotels."



Advertisement for 'LIFE' apartments. Text: 'The Best things in LIFE will be available From October 1st'. Includes an image of a building and a table listing apartment types and prices.

Koh Boon Hwee, the chief executive of the Singapore-based property company, Liang Court Holdings, also sees the need for London to improve its developments for international customers, who want the same standards and options whether they are in Singapore, Sydney or London.

On the Move / Anne Spackman Exploding an ownership myth

New research into patterns of home ownership in 12 OECD countries explodes the myth that owner-occupation is seen as less desirable in countries outside the UK.

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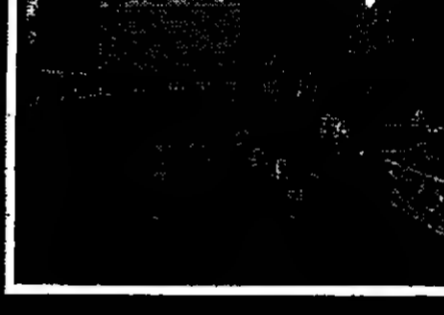
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مكتبة الامير

OUTDOORS

Gardening

Bulb planting against the odds

Robin Lane Fox says it is time to tackle bulbs, despite the rock-hard ground and hungry wildlife

Once again, in England, the ground is as hard as a brick at a time when we ought to be planting most of our bulbs. It is bad practice, however, to delay planting many of the smaller bulbs...

I would not even try and hide. I would happily watch mice consume it instead of my best specimens.

Impressive as the great carpets which are maintained on the edge of the London parks...



sending out tulip bulbs of such size and initial vigour, but this quality is often the result of exceptional cultivation...

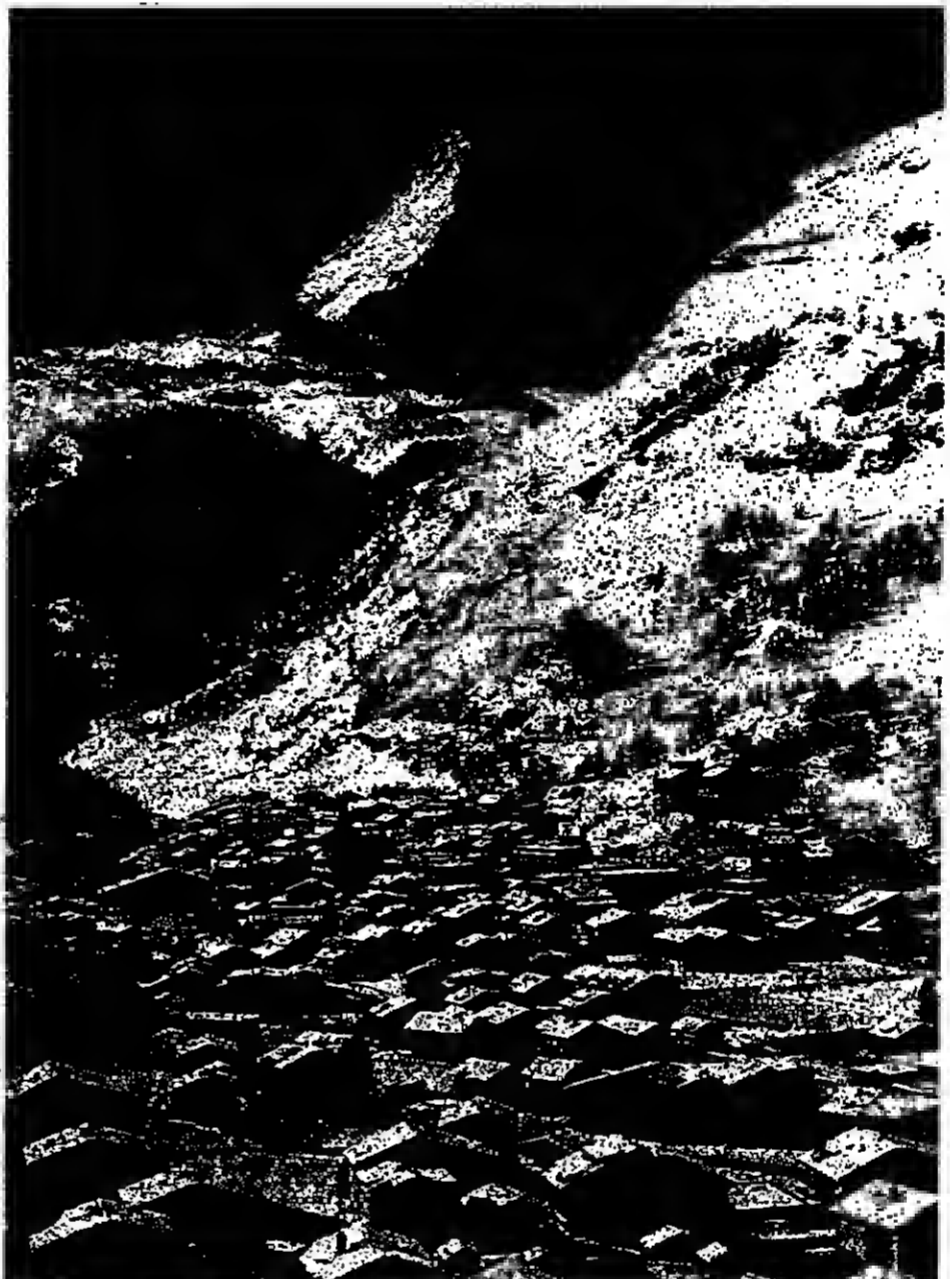
and leaving room for the summer bedding between their dead leaves.

It holds several flowers on one stem. Wallace and Barr of Marston Kent, calls Tête à Tête 'one of the best all-round narcissi ever'...

Berkeley Homes logo and advertisement for Berkeley Homes.

Skiing Free pass up the slippery slope

Arnie Wilson on Switzerland's crisis on the peaks made Perregé, Zermatt's director of tourism, was asked recently if he was worried about the prospect of British skiers abandoning his world-famous resort because it had become so expensive.



Zermatt: the mighty Matterhorn alone cannot bring in the tourists year after year.

free the Matterhorn, is giving free ski passes to children aged up to nine years.

truly memorable without breaking the bank.

promoting Swiss resorts, and Powder Byrnes is offering free lift tickets to skiers who book for Grindelwald before November...

Fishing/Tom Fort Crickets, worms and French trout

I have a slightly troubled conscience. Not about the worms, for they can be regarded as a legitimate weapon...

I decided that the trout of the Lourdes must have been corrupted away from the fly. In pursuit of success, I should follow the natives...

The plan proved to be flawed. The cricket danced and scuttled and was ignored

Motoring/Stuart Marshall

Better second time around



Little things count in the new British-made Nissan Primera

The first Nissan Primera was so refined that it won the distinction of minimum NVH (noise, vibration and harshness). Ford used it as its benchmark.

It even more economical than another noted fuel miser, the 1.6-litre lean burn engine Toyota Corolla E. So far, I have driven only a five-door turbo-diesel. It proved to be a good motorway car, cruising quietly at business motoring speeds.

The heating/ventilation system will supply face-level cool air while warm air is delivered to the feet and side windows.

to date by getting young criminals to tell him about their latest techniques. The Primera's audio interacts with the security devices.

I had fished in these parts before and had reason to believe that there should be trout in the river. The only creatures for whose existence I had firm, early evidence, however, were newts and tadpoles.

So I went fly-fishing, or attempted to. The water was much more enclosed by trees than I had anticipated, and I hooked and lost some good branches.

SPORT

Yachting

# Ordinary people take up the challenge again

Keith Wheatley on the relatively inexperienced sailors ready to embark on a year-long race around the world

On Sunday, several hundred adventurous and apprehensive "yachties" leave Portsmouth and the calm waters of the Solent behind to spend nearly a year racing around the world. Ahead of them lie the tropical heat of the doldrums, the storms of Cape Horn and personal challenges such as they have hardly imagined.

Captains of industry will turn out to be complaining wimps, nursery-school teachers foredeck heroes. Or so it proved four years ago. British yachtsman and entrepreneur Chay Blyth devised an event that had would-be competitors queuing up to part with nearly £20,000 and leave their workaday jobs and lives behind, proving his theory that ordinary people have an unshakeable thirst for adventure and the sea.

Renamed the BT Global Challenge (after its new sponsor) the competition has attracted even more interest than its forerunner, the British Steel Challenge. Most of the crew-volunteers, as Blyth terms his clients, are people who were too late to get berths on the first race and waited patiently, cheques in hand, for the next chance. Blyth even had to tell a number of gluttons for punishment, veterans of 1992-1993, that they could not go around again.

Blyth's group has built five new yachts for this year's race, making a total fleet of 14 plus a training boat. Safety and performance considerations (the need for a level playing field) meant that each of the original yachts was stripped virtually to a bare steel hull and re-equipped with new masts, deck gear and engines.

The exercise cost "a small fortune" according to Blyth, although he says with some pride

that they managed to sell on items such as second-hand water-makers and 85ft masts to cost-conscious sailors all over the world. Staff say that no outsider could tell the difference between old and new boats.

Nevertheless, the existence of two groups of boats has created tough decisions for the four skippers who took part in the first race. Like all sailors they develop sentimental attachments to past commands. Yet as racers, they instinctively want the newest

## The Time & Tide yacht is crewed entirely by people with serious physical problems

equipment. None felt the dilemma more keenly than Mike Golding, at the helm of Group 4. In 1992, Golding was a Reading fire officer about to set off on his first circumnavigation. Since then he has also set a solo round-the-world record in the same yacht.

"This is the same boat," said Golding as stores were loaded aboard Group 4 in Southampton's Ocean Village marina last week. "I'm taking it round for the third time now. It was a fairly big question in my mind as to whether having a new boat would make any difference to our chances of winning."

"Naturally the Challenge Business assured us that it wouldn't. Everything I saw in Devonport

dockyard during the refits bore that out but it would have been a terrible experience to have chosen a new one and then been beaten by our old boat.

"From my point of view it's nicer to be on the original boat. I know pretty much everything that has happened to her since she first went in the water five years ago."

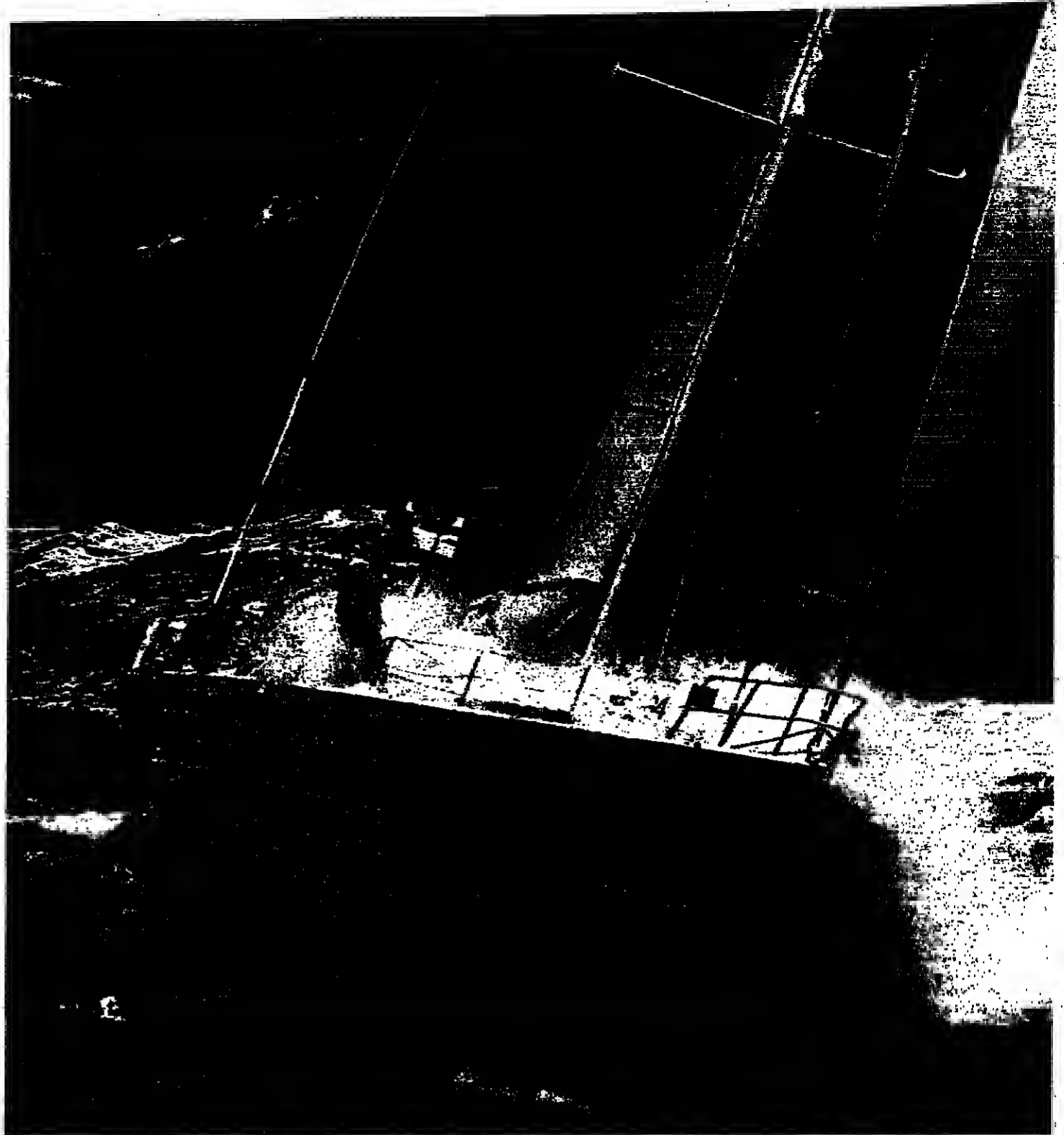
If Golding's boat has not changed, much else about the Challenge has. Four years ago there was a question mark over the whole event. Could teams of relatively inexperienced sailors take big racing yachts down to the extremes of the Southern Ocean and return in one piece, let alone stage some kind of sporting contest while they were away?

That question was answered in spades. The racing was close, the adventures compelling and no one drowned (save the unfortunate Bill Vincent who took his own life off West Africa). This time, says Blyth, skippers and crews know the voyage is possible so it is going to be more of a race.

"They have so much confidence in the strength of the yachts that they drive them to within an inch of the wall. But there is a limit," he says.

The idea of disabled sailors racing around the world would not have been contemplated in 1992 but in this race the Time & Tide yacht is crewed entirely by people with serious physical problems. They include three amputees, a bowman who is deaf and dumb and two others who have cerebral palsy.

"I've just taken delivery of a titanium artificial leg, built in Germany especially for the voyage," says Greg Williams, a 38-year-old former Guardsman who lost his leg in a road accident 12



'Yachties' developing a thirst for the challenges of the sea come from many professions, including captains of industry and school teachers

years ago. "It cost £3,000 and I'm told it's the most high-tech available."

Williams and his crew-mates are learning sign language but he says: "It's not such a problem as you'd imagine. You can never

hear anything on the bow of a 67ft boat anyway," he laughs.

The skipper is James Hatfield, a hole-in-the-heart sailor who was nominated Yachtsman of the Year for his own solo circumnavigation a decade ago. "Sailing has

given me the world and transformed me from the person I was to the person I am," Hatfield remarks.

When asked about the disabilities of his crew and whether they will be up to the physical

demands of the 30,000 mile race (which includes stopovers in Rio de Janeiro, Wellington, Sydney, Cape Town and Boston), Hatfield says that he never notices what they cannot do, just what they can do.

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Soccer

## 'Boro's midfield 'fighter'

Emerson Moises Costa has guts, grit and skill, says John Perlman

Middlesbrough's Brazilian midfielder Emerson probably did not spend Saturday night flipping through the programme from that afternoon's match against Arsenal.

If he had, page five might have prompted him into a rather wry smile. Interviewed in the "Boro News" section, team mate Robbie Mustoe was full of praise for his gifted midfield partner. "He's an exceptional tackler who uses the ball very well too," he said. But then noted that "perhaps he'll take time to learn about the discipline in the English game".

After a match in which Middlesbrough's British defenders gave away two goals to Arsenal and practically begged them to stick away a few more, Emerson might just have wondered who had most to learn about what.

Since arriving at the Riverside Stadium in May, Emerson has speedily settled the "tough-enough" question. In fact, top-flight footballers in Brazil play an exhausting season of matches, and must learn to look after themselves in a league where the physical and the brutal can often blur.

Emerson, 24, served his apprenticeship in that world, playing for Flamengo and then Curitiba in Brazil before moving to Portugal. Bobby Robson, former manager of Portuguese champions FC Porto, where Emerson became a key man, rated him "the best defensive midfielder in Portugal". So Middlesbrough manager Bryan Robson knew what he was getting when he paid Porto £4m for Emerson Moises Costa, thus bringing a third Brazilian to Teesside.

Bryan Robson stressed what the Brazilian might do for his team: "He can dictate the pace of the game, he is a strong tackler and a very good passer." In the opening weeks of the season, Emerson has done all those things.

In spite of some of his team mates having had no real idea of who was joining



Emerson: an all-important piece in Bryan Robson's jigsaw

them at the Riverside stadium - "I hadn't heard of him before," said defender Derek Whyte - Emerson has quickly convinced them that he has the muscle to carve out some space and respect in the English game. One team mate described him "as the strongest man I've ever met". They have also been thrilled by his skill. "I'm just enjoying playing with him," says striker Nicky Barnby, whose £5m signing from Tottenham at the start of last season signalled the start of the spending that secured Emerson.

Against Arsenal, as in earlier games, most of Middlesbrough's moves started with Emerson. Even on a difficult day he displayed enough wit on the ball, pace in the run and steel in the tackle to show why he has had such rave reviews. Invariably, the instinctive target of his efforts - a long ball to the flanks, or a shorter pass fol-

lowed by a dart into space for the return - was the Middlesbrough number 10, Juninho.

The first of Middlesbrough's Brazilians and a rising star signed in the face of Italian competition, Juninho arrived last October to a welcome from 10,000 fans. But as Robson's team stumbled after a promising start, eight successive defeats that took them within sight of the relegation zone, it became clear that Juninho needed an on-field interpreter. So Branco, veteran of three world cups, was signed in March to "feed the ball to Juninho further forward", as Robson put it.

With just seven appearances for Middlesbrough since then, Branco does not seem to be the man for the job. Emerson, though never capped by his country, almost certainly is: Juninho scored twice last season;

over the past month he has scored four times.

Bryan Robson described Emerson as "the next piece in the jigsaw" when he signed him. But Arsenal's comfortable win last weekend suggests that success is probably going to be more complicated. At the start of the season Robson said qualifying for Europe next year was one of the club's goals for 1996-1997 - a goal never before achieved.

The team looked on course for European qualification in October last season, but a freefall at the start of this year saw the team finish 20 points short of a European qualifying place and just five points from relegation. One home defeat hardly equals a crisis, but Middlesbrough's defence looked very rickety indeed and the team has a couple of away fixtures coming up that have the look of dogfight about them. They play Southampton today, then travel to Sunderland a fortnight later.

Looking ahead, there are tough trips to Newcastle, Derby and Aston Villa, all of which build up to a home meeting with Manchester United on November 23, the team that has set the standard. The last time they met, back in May, United won easily to clinch the title. Ten days later, Robson invited the fans back to the club's £16m stadium to introduce them to Emerson, to make it clear that the bid to reach the heights was being renewed afresh.

Getting there, of course, requires grit and guts and, yes, discipline too. And if the last of these is found wanting, the highly paid, extravagantly skilled foreigner who learned his football under the warm sun, is unlikely to be the culprit.

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مكتبة العربي

BOOKS

It's high noon in the Wild West

Cowboys and their culture are thriving in the electronic age, writes Michael Thompson-Noel

What are the 10 best classic cowboy films of all time? What is, or was, "goat meat"? Who, or what, was Ring Eye? And what, or who, was Yellow Belly?

Well, partners, the Yellow Belly, also known as Yellow Boy, was a Winchester rifle, so named because of its brass colour. Ring Eye was the horse ridden by comic sidekick Smiley Burnette in a number of western B-movies. Among North American cowboys, "goat meat" was a colloquial term for venison killed out of season.

And the 10 best classic cowboy films of all time, according to the author of this encyclopedia, include Stagecoach, High Noon, Lonesome are the Brave, Butch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid and Clint Eastwood's Unforgiven (1960).

Perhaps the inclusion in the list of a revisionist and satirical film like Unforgiven will make some folk bridle. But then Richard W. Slatta is entitled to his opinion. Not only does he define what he means by a classic cowboy film, but it is unlikely that anyone alive has given as much thought to cowboy films - or to cowboy matters in all their variety - as Slatta, who is a history professor, author of the well-regarded Cowboys of the Americas and now compiler of this entertaining and wide-ranging guide to the history of the cowboy.

In fact, there is almost nothing about cowboys and cowboy life that Slatta does not know. As a result, The Cowboy Encyclopedia, which combines dictionary definitions and biographical entries with more than 400 short essays on all aspects of cowboy history, culture and myth, has won prizes in America for its excellence as a reference book.

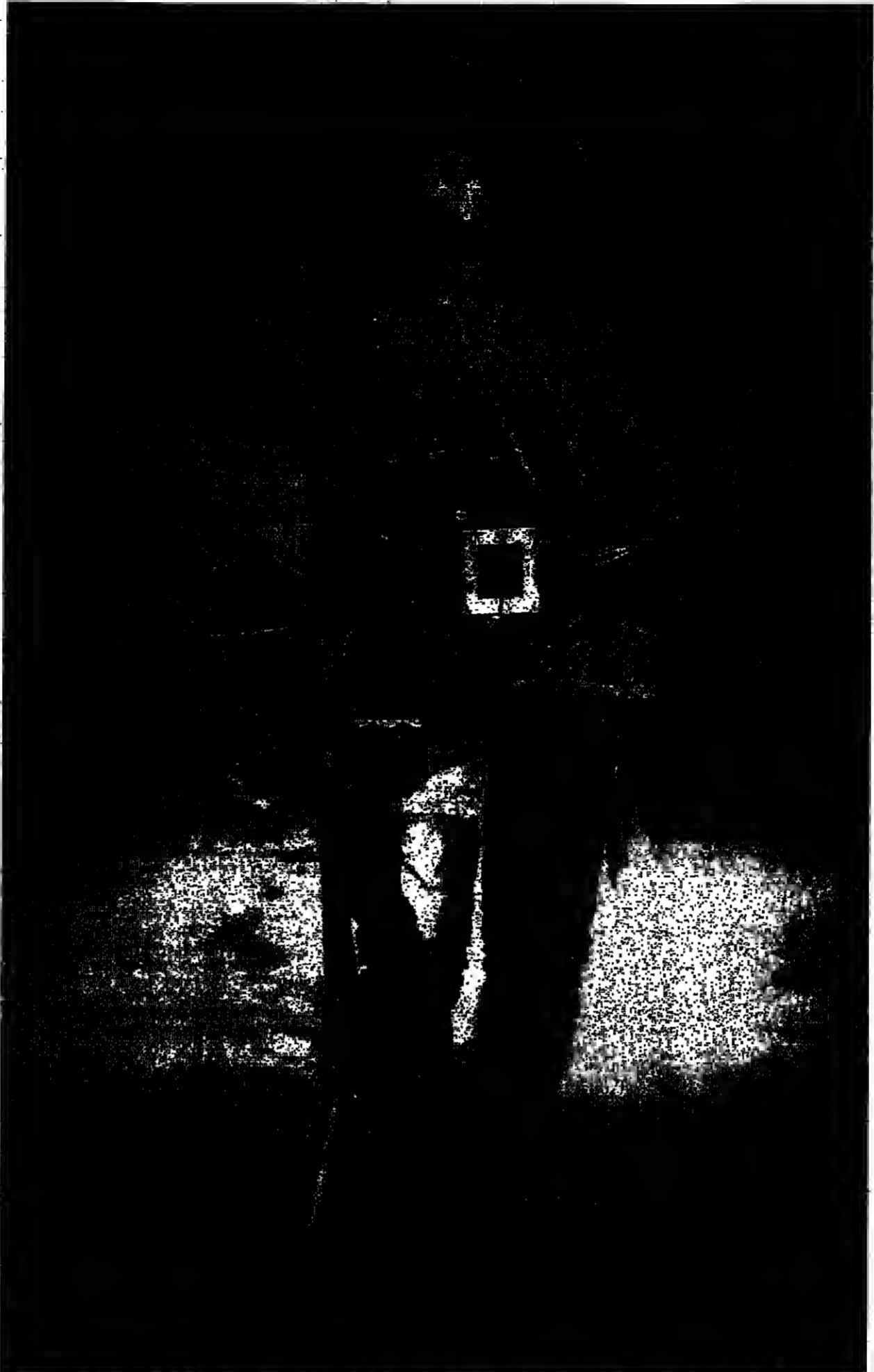
The bibliography alone runs to 27 pages, but what is equally impressive is the range of electronic information sources - including online encyclopedias - Slatta says he consulted in the preparation of this work, in addition to conventional archival and other library sources.

In short, far from disappearing because of competition from electronic reference works, printed reference books - of which dictionaries, encyclopedias and cookbooks are three good examples - are themselves getting better and more sophisticated as their authors tap into the immense data-cloud of cyberspace.

THE COWBOY ENCYCLOPEDIA by Richard W. Slatta W.W. Norton £12.95, 476 pages

About two-thirds of The Cowboy Encyclopedia focuses on the American west. The remainder covers Canada and South America. One of his goals, says Slatta, was to refute generations of pundits who have declared the cowboy dead or dying. Some aspects of cowboy life have certainly changed, he says, but cowboys and their culture are alive and well in the US, Canada and Latin America, as a visit to any of the hundreds of cowboy song-fests, poetry gatherings, chuck wagon cookoffs, rodeos and other cowboy happenings attests.

Even in Britain, cowboy line-dancing is now a big fad, having been transported from America to Britain initially (I believe I have got this right) by metropolitan gay AA groups, which know a good thing when they see it. For them and for urban cowboys everywhere, Slatta's enlightening encyclopedia is well nigh indispensable.



A role model for urban cowboys everywhere: Colonel W.F. Cody, "Buffalo Bill", wrangler, gold-pro prospector, ranch hand and army scout turned Wild West entertainer. Pictured in "The West" an illustrated history by Geoffrey Ward (Waldenfeld & Nicolson £30, 446 pages)

Fairy home companion

Steve Gunderson is straight out of Prairie Home Companion. In an early contretemps when Morris despaired of cracking Gunderson's shell, he moved all his furniture out of a house they were sharing and left a note on the piano: "I give up. Sleep with the farm bill instead."

Over the years, Morris's counsel helped Gunderson to cope with the stresses of his rise within the House Republican leadership. Although from a more moderate strain of the party, Gunderson's wagon was firmly hitched to Newt Gingrich, who he describes as "the closest thing I have to an older brother in politics."

Gunderson credits Gingrich with signalling early and often that his sexual orientation - widely known within Congress long before the Doran episode - would not be a barrier within the party. Yet Gingrich signed a letter which described a meeting between a member

of President George Bush's cabinet and gay lobbyists as "a slap in the face to every voter who affirms the traditional family." Confronted by Gunderson, Gingrich said: "I just didn't look closely at that letter and shouldn't have signed it and I'm sorry about it."

The rather lame excuse left Gunderson wondering whether Gingrich was having it both ways, but he gave his hero the benefit of the doubt, as he did to Robert Dole, after a similar slight. Gunderson's party loyalty, however, has been repaid with vilification. Few of his Republican colleagues stood up to defend him against the religious right. He was the only House Republican to vote against the Defense of Marriage Act, which enables states to refuse to recognise same-sex marriages licensed in another.

HOUSE AND HOME by Steve Gunderson and Rob Morris, with Bruce Bawer Dutton, \$24.95, 327 pages

This underlines the practical limits to efforts by Gunderson to win acceptance in the mainstream. If Gunderson's example - it is hard to imagine a "straighter" person of any orientation - fails to persuade, it is hard to see whose will.

The more ebullient Morris makes a welcome foil for a

Clay Harris

Turbulent times for a political dynasty

George Kassimeris on a collection of stories, part fact, part fiction, which chronicles the troubled history of modern Greece

and traumatic periods of Greece's recent political history, from the chaotic 1966 up until the collapse of the Colonels' regime and the difficult transition to democracy in 1976.

The publishers' claim on the dust jacket, that the book is an "unreliable memoir" and therefore not intended to be read as a straight autobiographical work, would make it bizarre but acceptable if it was presented as a novel. But it is not.

True, the book's characters, both fictional and historical, do mingle with each other throughout the text and at times fact and fiction are so skilfully interwoven that one is not entirely sure where one ends and the other begins. Yet although Papandreou never says it outright, this present book - his first - is more a work of life than a work of fiction.

FATHER DANCING: AN INVENTED MEMOIR by Nick Papandreou Viking £16, 179 pages

The book begins with brilliantly simple sentences which move towards complicated sentiments. In the memorable opening story entitled "A Crowded Heart", Papandreou tells us what it was like for a shy Californian boy to be caught between two deeply incompatible worlds. "When I told

my American grandfather about the evil eye, he washed my mouth with soap because I was speaking nonsense. When I told my Greek grandfather, he spat on my forehead and told me not to look anyone in the eye for 26 hours."

The years that followed, however, were far more dismal and challenging. Life under the Colonels became absolute hell for the family. Andreas was arrested and thrown into prison for months and it seems that only his international reputation saved him.

Then there was exilia, first in Sweden and then Canada. The author gives us a brief but moving description of the early hours of April 21, 1967, the night of the coup, when a dozen soldiers stormed with fanatical enthusiasm into their house to arrest his father.

Of that episode, which Papandreou seems to remember with complete vividness, he writes: "That night weakened our family's centrifugal gravity, loosened the orbits. My sister turned inward and grew less talkative, while my older brother blamed himself for his father's arrest and hurried into politics like a Minocan dancer. My youngest brother barricaded himself behind a deceptive smile, and I had recurring dreams of being strangled by the fanatic officers."

In Canada, as the years passed, every member of the family grew stronger in the new environment except the father. In exilia, Andreas was wracked with guilt and a sense of loss and felt unable to fulfil his political potential. He became the orator-in-chief of the anti-junta struggle, frenetically campaigning around the world against the dictators.

When Nick Papandreou writes about his father he writes with a painful and vivid exactness. Andreas Papandreou emerges in these pages as the type of man who was always ready to give up his family in order to have time for what really mattered to him.

"My childhood memories of my father are of a man at a distance. I don't recall the smell of his shaving lotion, the shape of his hands, or the way he wore his hat. Instead I see him being carried on the shoulders of Greek villagers, I see his solitary form on a balcony, I see him surrounded by crowds, lost in their embrace."

Father Dancing is an absorbing book, and a brave one.

Crime/J.D.F. Jones The underbelly of Regents Park

Ruth Rendell's new crime story - no, her new novel - is entirely serious. It is above all a portrait of one of London's "wild-places": Regents Park and the streets of its vicinity. NW1. This picture is painted with extraordinary skill and with the most precise and evocative detail.

The Keys to the Street brings together the tangle of paths through the park - the zoo, the mosque, the Nash terraces, the intellectuals' enclave in Gloucester Crescent, the wretched council flats of Somers Town, the drunks of the Arlington House hotel, the London Business School, the unending traffic in Camden High Street, and - at the heart of the tale - the street people, the dropouts, the dossers, who at night-time evade the Royal Parks police to sleep out under the bushes and on the benches.

To the tourist on a sunny day Regents Park must appear the most manicured and safe of London's recreational "innings", but in Rendell's vision there is menace there even before the bodies start to be impaled on the sharp iron spikes which line every Regency avenue.

There are five main characters. Mary, who works in a local museum, has left her boyfriend and is house-sitting one of the hidden, genteel places in Park Village. She has donated bone marrow to an anonymous young man who turns out to be the mysterious and charming Leo Nash; they meet and fall in love, while Mary inherits a fortune. Roman, the most interesting person in the park, is a not-quite-credible creation, a publisher who in response to unbearable personal tragedy has retreated from the world to live as a

street person. Bean is the elderly dog-walker for the neighbourhood, formerly manservant to rich (and dead) old men. Hob is an appalling and pathetic drug addict and villain. These five, surrounded by assorted drunks and drop-outs, parade around the park as someone sets about the murder of the locals.

As with many of Ruth Rendell's recent books, the "murder" theme is secondary to her deeper concerns. She has structured the tale so that the mystery is solved at the very end, but the fascination - the reason you, the reader, will sit up late - has everything to do with Rendell's fabled skill in story-telling. Her prose is rarely ambitious, or even good, but she has the gift which

THE KEYS TO THE STREET by Ruth Rendell Hutchinson £13.99, 310 pages

impels you to turn the page, and her plotting skills are utterly professional. See, for instance, a brilliant twist 40 pages from the end.

There are, the next morning, a few worries. Why should her boyfriend be so incensed when Mary made the marrow donation? Why, for that matter did she do it, and then get so obsessed with seeing the recipient? Why did Roman the publisher become a dossier as well as, in his words, "an unaccommodated man" (there is an embarrassing and unconvincing scene when he has sex with an odorous Roman bag lady)? The answer is that Rendell had a theme, and a location stretching north from Euston to Primrose Hill, which she knew she could engineer triumphantly.

Teachers' knuckles rapped

But this harangue will not benefit education, argues Lucy Kellaway

Batman comics are more relevant than Homer. In All Must Have Prizes, Melanie Phillips lays into the British educational system with an obsessional rage, finding not one thing to admire, not one change to be thankful for. The book sets out to be controversial, sets out to be puzzling: even the most traditionally-minded teacher or parent will find it hard to recognise British schools from her account. While it is true that Phillips' beloved phonics has fallen from favour as the sole way of teaching reading, that does not mean schools have abandoned teaching reading at all.

There is a discussion to be had about techniques of teaching, but this type of harangue, with its dubious statistics, and one-sided quotes, is not the way to begin it. Phillips needlessly polarises the debate: education can (and in many cases, does) do many things simultaneously. It can encourage creativity as well as teach rules and principles.

She argues that we came to be in this sorry state thanks to Joony leftists in the Department of Education acting in cahoots with teachers and university professors. The national curriculum, which was meant to change the status quo, was hijacked by this corrupt

educational establishment with the result that the status quo has been reinforced.

In the most bizarre chapter of all, Phillips traces the decline in moral standards back to the Enlightenment, pointing the finger at historical figures including John Stuart Mill, Rousseau, Bertrand Russell, Freud and Darwin.

Just as blame-worthy are parents. They are indifferent to and neglect their offspring. They are so keen on promoting their own freedom and individuality that they no longer understand what commitment means. Thus divorce and single parent families abound, and instead of society punishing these anti-social beings, it supports them, or at any rate withholds judgment.

And so what is to be done? "We need to put back as much authority and as many solid structures as we can," she says and then talks vaguely about "shoring up institutions like Parliament and the Monarchy".

More precisely she wants to bring back grammar schools, improve vocational

education, put an independent body appointed by the Queen in charge of the national curriculum (limiting its scope to the three Rs and history), and scrap all teacher training colleges.

Would that really make matters better? The teaching profession has had to cope with so much change already; more of the same would only further distract it from what everyone believes it should be doing, which is to teach.

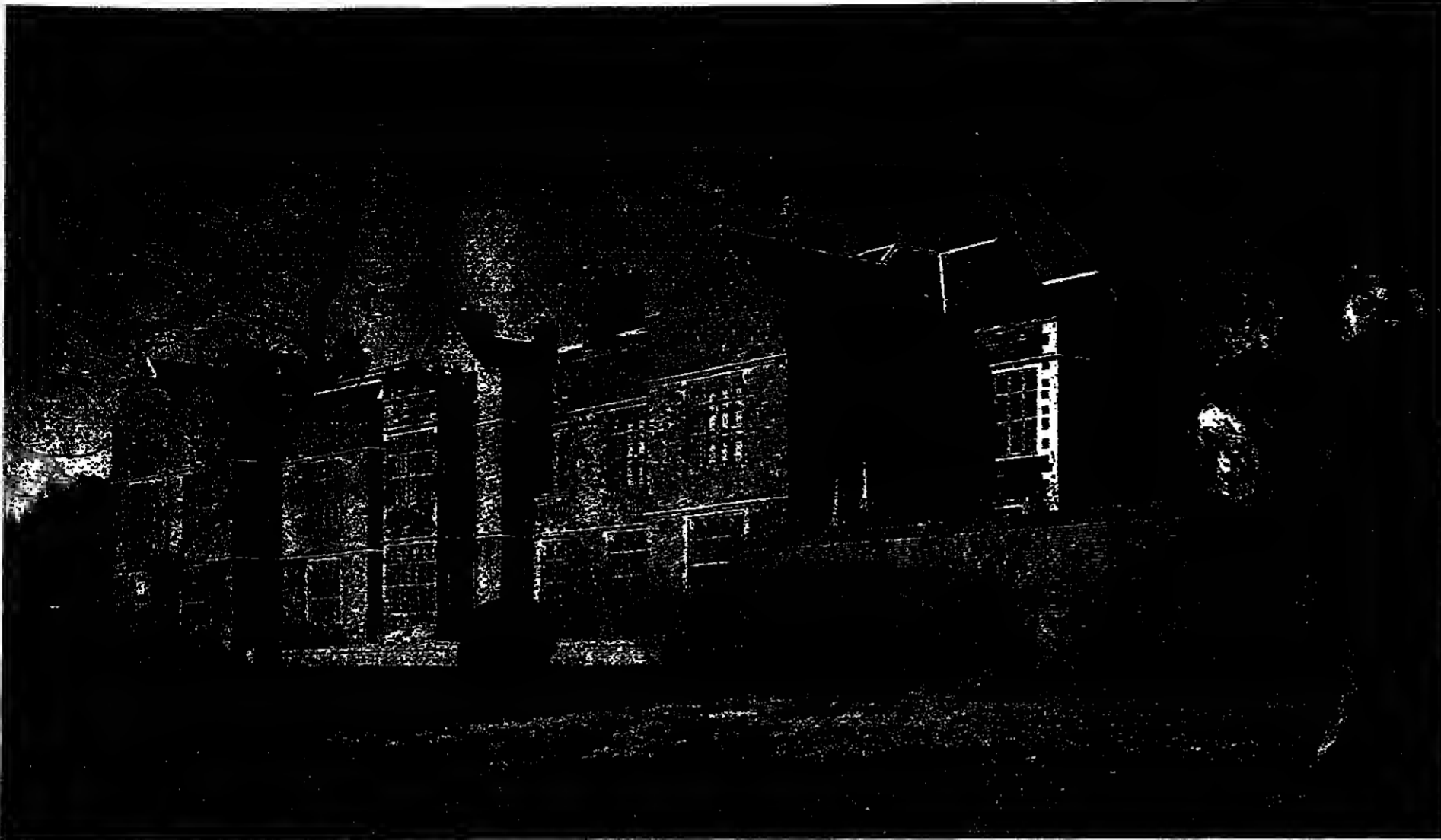
There is a startling omission in Phillips' reactionary diatribe. One of the most important changes to the condition of the modern child is the fact that their mothers now work. In 344 pages Phillips does not mention this fact once. Might it be that as a full-time working mother herself, the fearless polemicist does not dare to open this can of worms?

ALL MUST HAVE PRIZES by Melanie Phillips Little, Brown £17.50, 288 pages

British children are no longer being taught to read. In fact, they are not being taught anything at all. We are in the age of child-centred education, in which children progress through primary school, secondary school and university to emerge as miserable ignoramuses.

So keen are schools not to trample on a child's innate creativity that instruction has become taboo. Mistakes must never be corrected. All answers are equally valid. Even in maths there is no such thing as a wrong answer. Grammar and spelling are dirty words. The art of the essay is dead, and when it comes to foreign languages no one can speak more than pidgin. Knowledge is old hat. Everything is relative; there is no such thing as great art.

BOOKS



Chequers, country house of the prime minister: Margaret Thatcher's crucial meeting on German unification was held here. Picture from Norma Major's history of the house, "Chequers" (HarperCollins, £25)

## Adoration of the Iron Lady

This is a diary of disappointed love, writes **Malcolm Rutherford**

When she was prime minister, Margaret Thatcher had a habit of inviting outside experts to seminars, especially on foreign policy. It was a good idea in theory, but had its pitfalls in practice. Academics and journalists have their own vanities. They may be flattered to be there, but do not like it if their advice is rejected. Some of them, like George Urban, even keep a diary.

Overlook the title: *Diplomacy and Disillusion at the Court of Margaret Thatcher - An Insider's View*. These 200 pages or so are a story of disappointed love. Urban adored Thatcher, or MT, as he calls her almost throughout. "I would have loved to see her as 'Queen of Europe,'" he writes. "The plain truth is that Margaret Thatcher is

in many respects too good for Britain." And again: "MT is a great lady even when she is dead wrong."

There were other people in what he regarded as the prime minister's inner circle whom Urban admires (and still does). He describes them as "the cream of the intellectual-spiritual element of the Conservative Party", attracted by MT's presence. They included Lord Thomas of Spanish civil war fame and Lord Dacre. Urban is miffed that none of them are mentioned in *Lady Thatcher's Memoirs*, *The Downing Street Years*.

This came to a head at the Chequers meeting on "The German Question" in March 1990 when Ger-

leader, notably Helmut Kohl. She distrusted the Germans intensely and might have opted for an alliance with Moscow rather than Bonn or Berlin.

This came to a head at the Chequers meeting on "The German Question" in March 1990 when Ger-

many was approaching unification. Even the American historians, Gordon Craig and Fritz Stern, both of whom have written wisely and well on Germany, were present. The account of what happened is the best part of the book. Urban

concludes, almost certainly correctly, that the minutes were hijacked by the prime minister's private secretary, Sir Charles Powell. Powell had drawn up the original agenda, attended the meeting, and wrote the minutes to reflect Mrs Thatcher's anti-German prejudices rather than what was said by most of the participants. The minutes were then leaked to the press. It is almost inconceivable that either Craig or Stern could have gone along with the conclusion that Germany had not changed and was still not to be trusted. Some of the British historians also objected, and so did Urban.

On this matter Urban was right, and Thatcher was wrong. Even she admits in her memoirs: "If there is one instance in which a foreign policy I pursued met with unambiguous failure, it was my policy on German reunification." Yet the

damage was done. By the middle of her premiership Thatcher (to borrow a phrase) could have had Britain at the heart of Europe. Her decision to resist greater integration, and the way it has caught on among lesser Conservatives, may still split the Party.

Despite the rift, Urban's adoration of MT lingered on. There is one comment, however, which suggests that outside experts suffer from a lack of knowledge of the political process as a whole. Apart from his dismissive reference to "the Foreign Office crowd", Urban claims that no other British prime minister held seminars "to broaden their minds and take advice from unorthodox quarters". Has he not heard of the Central Policy Review Staff? It was introduced by Heath, discussed all sorts of subjects in unorthodox ways, and was abolished by Thatcher.

**DIPLOMACY AND DISILLUSION AT THE COURT OF MARGARET THATCHER - AN INSIDER'S VIEW**  
by **George R. Urban**  
L.B. Taurus £19.95, 206 pages

like Justin Cartwright I was born in South Africa and like Justin Cartwright I left South Africa to live in England. But unlike Justin Cartwright I have not returned to the new South Africa. The memories of the homeland I left are still tainted with the vision of the apartheid era which I came to dislike so intensely that I packed my bags and sailed away.

Sometimes I long to return to the land now ruled by Nelson Mandela. So far the opportunity to do so has not arisen. Meanwhile, the next best experience is to read about the miracle which has taken place in South Africa. Who better to describe the scene today than a distinguished writer such as Cartwright, whose most recent novel, *In Every Face I Meet*, was short-listed for the 1995 Booker prize and the Whitbread Prize.

*Not Yet Home* is Cartwright's account of his journey and gives a fascinating

## Hope after apartheid

Roy Terry on a fascinating insight into the new South Africa

insight into the new South Africa, its peoples and its cultural life - art, music, literature, theatre and rugby. He has the eye of the perceptive observer, the ear of the discerning listener as he describes the sights and sounds of the rainbow nation.

He describes his meeting with Dolly Rathebe, one of the legendary jazz singers from the Sophiatown era of the 1950s, the years when Father Trevor Ruddyestone was ministering there. Dolly, who was once Drum magazine's most famous cover girl, had an engagement to sing at a steak 'n' hamburger restaurant in the northern suburbs of Johannesburg but so lost in legend is she, says Cartwright, that nobody turned up to hear her.

"She lived through the worst of apartheid, when every car journey at night was an invitation to arrest, and every precarious engagement was a triumph over the laws restricting movement, and the sheer difficulties of life for blacks," Cartwright says. "Yet here was Dolly, with the new era beckoning, singing to nobody in a hamburger joint, her struggles and travails unrecognised."

Unknown by some, perhaps, but not entirely forgotten, because Dolly had received a summons from the playwright Welcome Msomi to take part in the inauguration ceremony for the new president in 1994. Msomi, who was the producer of the Zulu *Masibath*, which he took to

Europe and America in the 1980s, had chosen for his theme, "One nation, many cultures". He also invited Nico Carstens, once the king of *boesmansik*, to participate in the ceremony. It would be

**NOT YET HOME: A SOUTH AFRICAN JOURNEY**  
by **Justin Cartwright**  
Fourth Estate £12.99, 192 pages

the greatest privilege of his life to play for Nelson Mandela, Carstens told Cartwright.

Sadly, Johannesburg is no longer the Golden City I knew. It has become the crime capital of the world. "Johannesburg is rife with stories of robbery, kidnaping and murder. There always had been murder and robbery, but largely localised in the black areas... At a safe distance it sounded quite exciting. The city centre and the suburbs were comparatively Arcadian, and strangely quiet at night when all the black people were obliged to go home. Johannesburg now is a very different city. Every street corner has become a makeshift market - known as the informal economy - and every residential block a crowded slum."

There are some regrettable omissions in the book. Although Cartwright tells us about the preparations for the president's inauguration, we miss out on the event itself. He also reports on several rounds of the rugby World Cup but does not describe that final scene after the Springboks had

won. To me, though, the most fascinating and telling part of *Not Yet Home* is Cartwright's view of apartheid.

For those of us who loathed it and fled from it, feeling like cowards but despairing of making a difference, convinced at last that our puny efforts and voices could not undo what their minds and take advice from unorthodox quarters". Has he not heard of the Central Policy Review Staff? It was introduced by Heath, discussed all sorts of subjects in unorthodox ways, and was abolished by Thatcher.

Fiction/Joan Smith

## Whatever happened at Richmond Hill?

In 1963, a shocking double murder at a country estate called Richmond Hill, near Toronto, gripped newspaper readers on both sides of the Atlantic. Grace Sparks, a 16-year-old servant who had emigrated to Canada from Ireland, was sentenced to death for her part in the brutal killing of her master, Thomas Kinneer, and his housekeeper Nancy Montgomery. The case had everything, from a beautiful but apparently wicked young girl to persistent doubts about her guilt and a lengthy campaign to prove her innocence.

Grace's sentence was commuted to life imprisonment but her co-defendant, a sta-

ble hand named James McDermott, was hanged in spite of his claim that he had committed the murders only at her urging and because he was in love with her.

Salacious details which emerged at the trial - Nancy Montgomery was the mother of an illegitimate child, and Kinneer's mistress - prompted lurid speculation in print and even contemporary ballads about the relationship between the two

protagonists. Grace's long years of imprisonment, which included a spell in a lunatic asylum, produced no firm answers about what really happened at Richmond Hill. But she was eventually granted a pardon and released, travelling to New York State in 1972 and disappearing from the records.

This final uncertainty offers rich material to a novelist, especially one beguiled, as Margaret Atwood has demonstrated herself to be, by what cannot be found out - by the condition of unknowability that exists even between well-intentioned human beings.

Grace Marks, in the version or indeed versions of her that appear in the cannily-titled *Alias Grace*, is by no means well-intentioned. A survivor of a brutal prison regime whose indignities include sexual abuse by male warders, her goal is quite naturally to protect

herself, especially from male doctors who have in the past used their profession as a cover for molesting her. When an American doctor, Simon Jordan, begins visiting her with a series of what seem to be simple-minded questions, she is suspicious

**ALIAS GRACE**  
by **Margaret Atwood**  
Bloomsbury £14.99, 468 pages

- and perplexed by the different root vegetables he brings with him each afternoon.

The vegetables are a comic touch, a joke against Simon's crude attempt to delve into Grace's unconscious (the connection, which she cannot be expected to understand, is that they grow underground and Nancy's body was found in a cellar). Pre-Freudian, but only just, Simon is interested in new theories about the mind and hopes to make



Margaret Atwood: creates an atmosphere of teasing uncertainty

his name from a study of Grace: he has been invited to examine her by a committee set up by local worthies convinced, for a variety of reasons, of her innocence.

The story of this early attempt at psycho-analysis, which forms the heart of the

novel, is framed by many different texts. There are genuine documents giving highly coloured reports of the case, letters between fictional characters, and Grace's own first-person account of her life and the events leading up to the murders; there is

also a bizarre and troubling interlude in which another doctor, an obvious charlatan, is allowed to hypnotise her with startling results.

What emerges from this babble of voices is the possibility that Grace herself might not have been able to explain the gory events at Richmond Hill: that the very idea of simple causality, and unaided recollection, might themselves be flawed. Excursions, imperfectly understood, course through the novel like an underground stream, diverting even those characters, principally Simon, who believe themselves to be most rational and controlled.

Atwood's writing is especially vivid at these moments, reworking metaphors - a desirable young woman looks "as if she is sculpted of whipped cream" - which hark back to the preoccupations of her first book, *The Edible Woman*. Although *Alias Grace* is

technically a historical novel, touches like this one ensure continuity with Atwood's other work, as does the atmosphere of teasing uncertainty. Everyone, including Grace herself, wants to know something: how they live with their inability to come to a definite conclusion is, in the end, a test of each individual's strength of character.

Ostensibly a novel about a mystery, *Alias Grace* attempts something more ambitious than fleshing out a sensational real-life story. It recreates a period when one orthodoxy about the human mind was giving way to another, less obviously flawed but not yet aware of its own limitations. Atwood is, one suspects at the novel's close, more comfortable with those remaining areas of obscurity than most of her characters ever learn to be.

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ARTS

# When money calls the tune

### Composer Gordon Getty talks to Annalena McAfee about his sponsorship of the Russian National Orchestra

It was a memorable concert. The setting was the prestigious Great Hall of the Moscow Conservatory and several of the audience had paid as much as \$20,000 for tickets. Some of the world's finest musicians played the work of some of the world's most influential composers: Rachmaninov, Britten... and Getty.

Getty? You will search *The New Grove Dictionary of Music and Musicians* in vain. There is, as yet, no reference there to Gordon F. Getty, scion of the great oil dynasty, patron of the arts and composer of music which he describes as "tonal, melodic, old-fashioned... much of it sounds like it came from another century." But in last Monday's Moscow concert by the Russian National Orchestra, Getty's *Victorian Scenes* took its place alongside Rachmaninov's *Bells* and Britten's *Variations on a Theme of Paganini*.

Gordon Getty, the 63-year-old head of the Getty clan, has long been known for his generosity to the arts. "My giving?" he muses, when asked to estimate the annual sum he dispenses to the arts. "About \$5m," depending on the tax position, he adds. Perhaps there is a gene for beneficence. His brother John Paul II helped to save Canova's "Three Graces" for Britain, ironically obdiding the Malibu museum in memory of their father. Among organisations benefitting from Gordon's largesse have been the recreated Globe Theatre in London and the Kirov Orchestra.

But when he first heard the Russian National Orchestra, the western-style independent "super orchestra" founded by Mikhail

Pletnev in the exhilarating early days of glasnost, this encounter was, Getty acknowledges, "a meeting of Romantic spirits". And in the manner of Victor Kiam and his razor company, Getty liked the orchestra so much that he bought it - or rather, agreed to sponsor it.

This week, as director of the

**At least his music will continue to be played, which is more than can be said for many of today's composers**

Friends of the Russian National Orchestra, Getty has been leading the ultimate sponsors' banquets, a trip which makes the usual corporate hospitality junket seem as meagre as a workhouse supper.

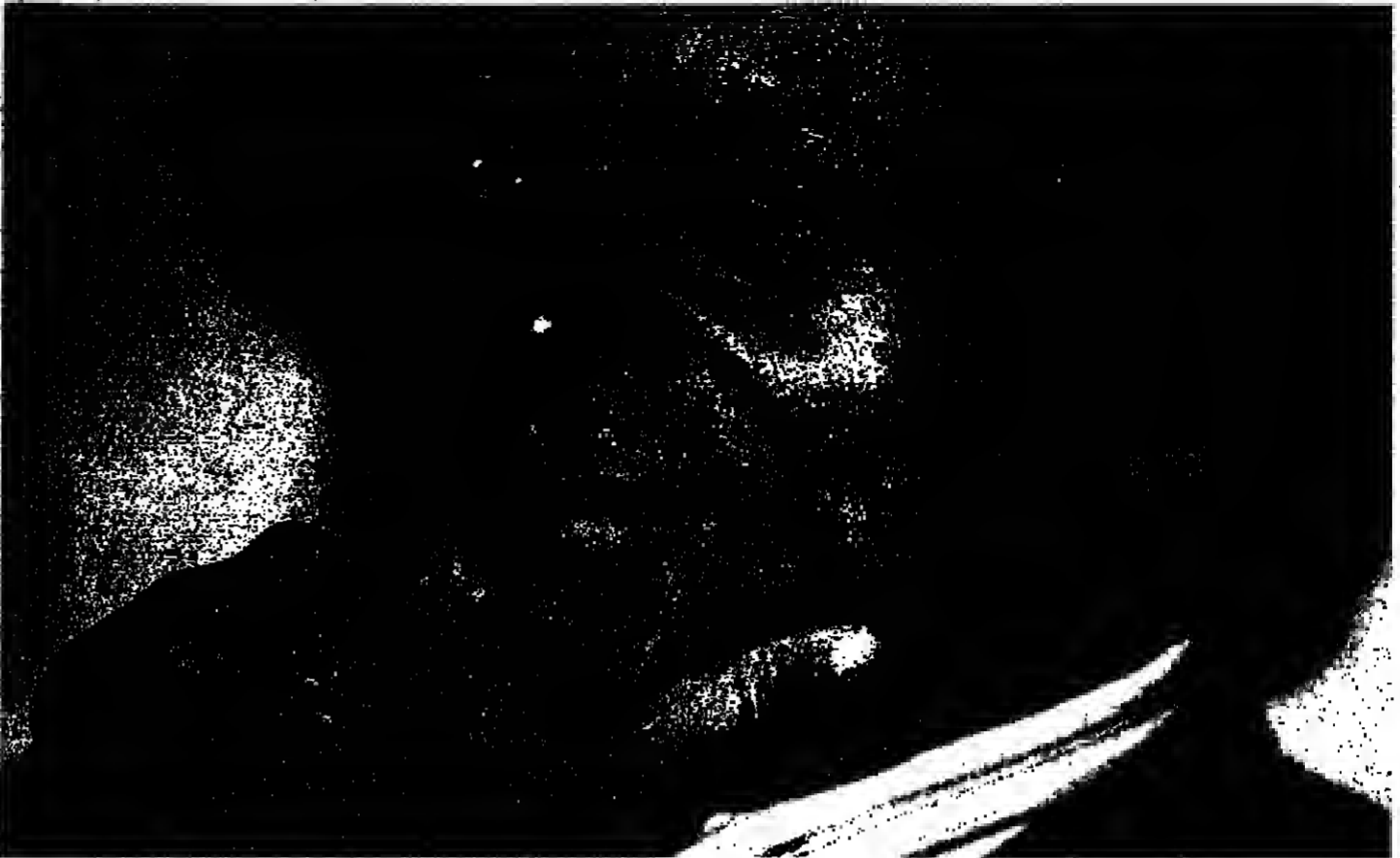
Twenty-two "major donors" have flown in Getty's private Boeing 727, "the family station wagon", for a 10-day trip to Moscow and St Petersburg to hear the Russian National Orchestra, visit museums and galleries and dine with local dignitaries. The cost of the trip is \$20,000, \$12,500 of which goes directly to the orchestra.

These "major donors" are an impressive bunch; their wealth is matched by the scale of their generosity and the range of their interests. There is Mrs Helen Watson, widow of the discount

store king Sam Walton. Apart from the arts, her benevolence has extended to the US Presbyterian church and a higher education programme in Central America. Mrs Patricia McKean Supper, widow of Frederick Supper, founder of *Concitantis Alexander-Froufrou*, has recently contributed \$1m to the Norton Museum of Art and describes herself as a patron. She is also a member of the Croquet Hall of Fame, Newport, Rhode Island. Retired banker Byron L. Ramsing runs the A2Z Ranch in Cody, Wyoming, where he breeds Norwegian Fjord horses, and is a trustee of the Buffalo Bill Museum.

Getty is himself no single-issue benefactor. With his wife Ann, an enthusiastic student of anthropology, he founded and financed the Institute of Human Origins at Berkeley, California. He is also passionate about economics and is currently working on the fifth draft of a "crazy" paper explaining rates of return in terms of biological constraints.

His first love, however, is music. "If you don't begin composing with your first memories, you never will," he says. He is a gentle, bear-like man with an unpretentious, almost folksy style which seems more mid-west farmboy than international plutocrat. His family, headed by his formidable oil magnate father John Paul, was not overtly musical, although Gordon's maternal grandmother, Helen Welsh, sang in vaudeville. It was at school - in Los Angeles and San Francisco - that he was first introduced to the subject which has become the expensive obsession of his adult life. He recalls his first visit to



Gordon Getty: a gene for beneficence?

the opera. "It was *Carmen*. I was just a little shaver and I wondered why the hero was fat and bald."

After four years in the family business he studied music theory for a year at the San Francisco Conservatory and went on to write *Phump Jack*, an opera inspired by Shakespeare's *Falstaff*; *The White Election*, an Emily Dickinson song cycle; and *Victorian Scenes*, choral settings of poems by Tennyson and Housman. "All my texts come from the mighty dead," he says. Like his economic paper, his compositions are subject to an apparently endless process of rewriting and refining. Is he a perfectionist? "How right you are," *Phump Jack* has had many performances as a work in progress and his other pieces have had several airings in different incarnations. "I wanted

to make sure that I was up to snuff." But at last, he feels, he has come of age as an orchestrator. "I am no longer fighting myself. It sounds like I mean it to sound."

His favourite composers are Musorgsky, Bach, Schubert and Beethoven - though "Mr Tchaikovsky was no slouch" - and he is resistant to the more eclectic appeal of contemporary atonal music. Until this century, he says "composers had to please the market, even if it was just the court. All those fellows had to please the public as well as the muse." He suspects that the more avant-garde composers are simply pleasing themselves. He is opposed to state subsidy of the arts although he

endorses government tax incentives for private sponsors.

Getty himself has, of course, never had to woo a private benefactor or seek public subsidy. Does he think his position has had any bearing on his career as a composer? "My father being very wealthy - it had advantages and disadvantages. The advantage was, everyone was curious and my work went to the top of the stack." Reviewers, however, have not always been kind. Norman Lebrecht wrote that "in every classical home, there is a dark corner where one crawls in times of stress to seek the solace of undisturbed Schadenfreude." In this corner, said Lebrecht, a CD of Getty's music, a contender for the title "worst classical recording ever", is located.

This is the downside. "Some critics might have had a little bit

of a chip on their shoulders," says Getty cheerfully. And although he says there have good reviews, his bad reviews are kept and cherished by "nuckcrakers". But bad reviews are better than none and, regardless, his music will continue to be played by virtuoso musicians, which is more than can be said for many contemporary composers. "I'll take the trade-off."

After the Russian major donor tour, Getty's next big project is an appearance at the White Nights Festival in St Petersburg next year. Then it will be the turn of the Kirov Orchestra to play a Getty song cycle and Gordon Getty will himself mount the stage to sing the baritone part. Is he apprehensive? He laughs affably and shakes his head. "The worst I can get is egg on my face. I can't lose my livelihood."

## Theatre Another round of marital combat

### Ian Shuttleworth reviews a new production of Albee's masterpiece

The first shock in Howard Davies' fine production of Edward Albee's *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?* is the entrance of Diana Rigg onto John Napier's scholastically opulent set. The epitome of theatrical elegance looks as close to frumpy as she can reasonably manage, eating ice cream from the tub in an undistinguished suit and semi-severely carrot-coloured wig. Although she later emerges in a more eye-catching ensemble including tight zebra-striped pants, the point is well made that Rigg's Martha is a siren not through any inherent allure but because she is determined, even desperate, to be so.

This sensation is mirrored in George and Martha's relationship as a whole: although their constant bickering shocks young newcomers Nick and Honey, the couple show little true spirit to each other except when the battle moves onto fresh ground - the subject of their "blind-eyed, blue-haired" son.

David Suchet's George, in particular, is remarkably urbane, on occasion even languid, through most of the combat: this is a man who has seen and experienced everything in more than 20 years of bloody marriage, whose interest lies more in the fecundity of his language he uses to propel his darts Martha-wards than in the scrap itself - again, until the shrewd enormity of sonny boy rears its head again.

As Nick, Lloyd Owen is an arrogant mid-Western prig; Clare Holman continues a line of strong Honeyes on the London stage, especially impressive in the final

act when she realises with horror her entrapment in George's climactic savage "game", but can only go along with it.

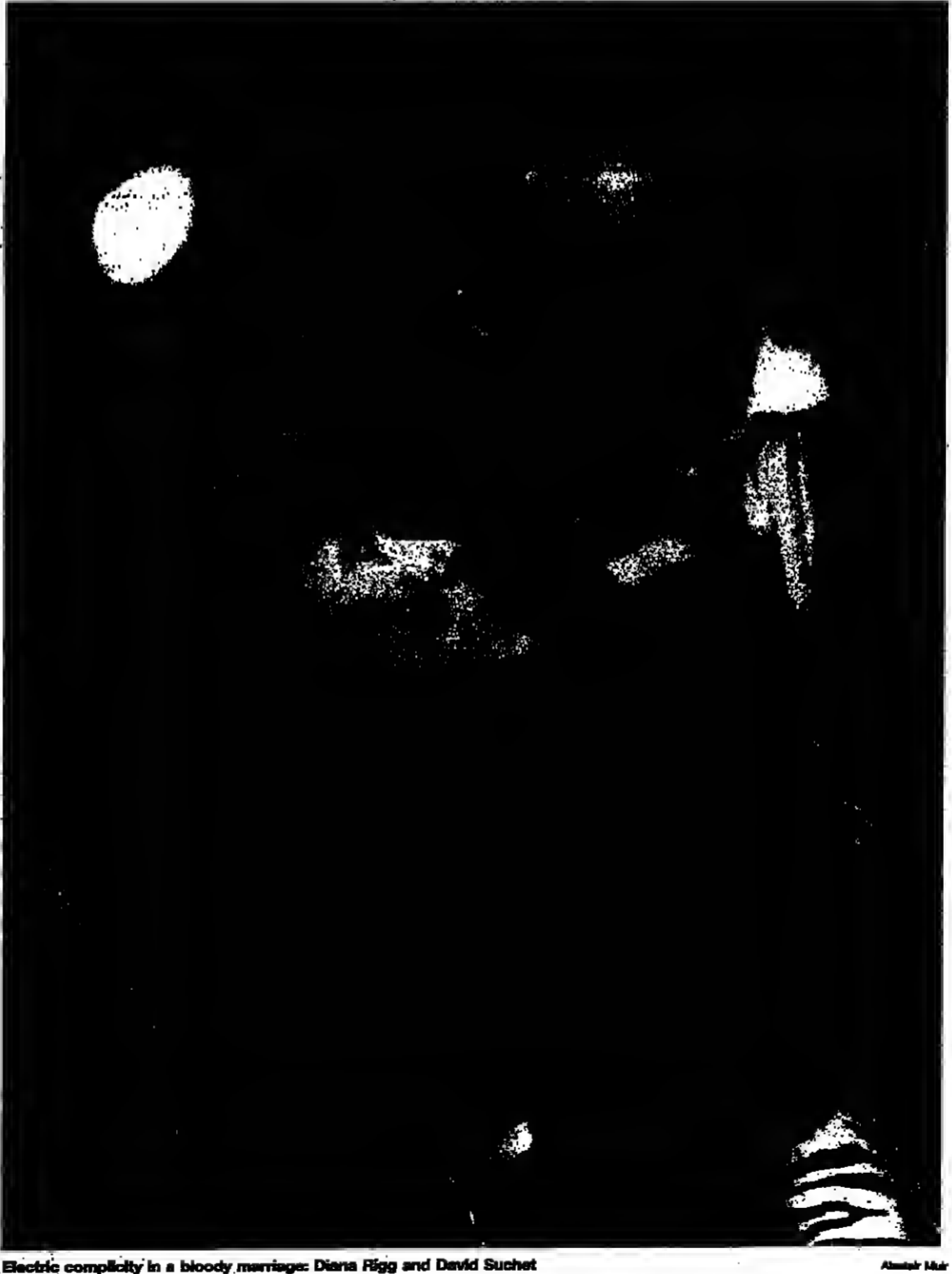
The weak point of both younger actors, whether due to their own efforts or Davies' direction, is drunkenness: after what was supposed to have been several hours of drinking, each tips over into giggling incoherence with odd rapidity.

Martha and (especially) George on the other hand, seldom seem affected at all by their constant ingestion of rocket-fuel - they are so habituated to such clashes that hardly any amount of booze can throw them off track. By the same token, when they find themselves on the same side for a moment Suchet and Rigg crackle with an electric complicity.

In the last act, when the truth about George and Martha's offspring is forced out, Rigg is magnificent - compelling throughout her "recitation", shattering in her wailing collapse. Whether one views the play as plain psycho-drama, American social allegory or veiled sexual fable, Davies' production rolls confidently over its occasional imperfections to a conclusion which, in Rigg's and Suchet's performances, is as potent a descent to a devastated ground zero as it has ever been.

The entirety of the Almeida run is already sold out; the production then deservedly decamps to the Aldwych theatre.

At the Almeida Theatre, London N1 until October 26 (0171 359 4404).



Electric complicity in a bloody marriage: Diana Rigg and David Suchet

Had he lived, Roberto Gerhard would have turned 100 this year, which is a good enough excuse for celebrating and revisiting his music now. The Proms gave us his dramatic cantata after Camus, *The Plague*, his earlier opera *The Duenna*, as produced by Opera North, is a recent and pleasurable memory; more to be heard on the South Bank next month.

Meanwhile, at the Wigmore Hall on Wednesday the Nash Ensemble played mixed Gerhard: early, middle and late. Younger readers should understand that we late-1960s listeners came upon the latter, unique Gerhard first, and were aston-

## Music in London/David Murray Serialism with Hispanic verve

ished and entranced. Later we learned that this Catalan composer (of Franco-Swiss parents) had been a devoted Schoenberg pupil in the 1930s, and had fled the Franco régime to make a decent career in Britain writing film and theatre music.

What we heard in the late pieces was a provocative mating of faithful serialism - "twelve-note" composition - with a pungent Hispanic accent and address. Most of all, his unerringly sensitive ear for timbres (whether be-

was writing film-music effects, or concert pieces) fixed him as an intuitive musical dramatist, operating beyond any dry "twelve-note" rules. The Nash gave a dashing performance of his 1969 *Leo*, almost as magical an ensemble-piece as its predecessor *Libra*: an intricate chain of sounds which has its own intriguing logic, and sounds like nobody but Gerhard. Before it came the *Concert for 8*, another glittering exhibit, and his brilliant

"duo concertante" *Gemini*, in which Stephanie Conley and Ian Brown were intrepid on violin and piano. Rosemary Hardy sang Gerhard's 7 *Haikus* (from 1922, but revised - possibly rewritten - much later). Concise and beautiful, extraordinarily forward-looking; for each tiny poem Gerhard found original, instantly communicative sounds. A welcome bonus was his set of folk-song arrangements after Pedrell, his early teacher: lively and

earthy, and as ear-tickling as the rest of the Nash programme. By comparison the Guarneri Quartet, whom we heard on Monday at the Queen Elizabeth Hall, sounded tired. Probably only jet-lagged, though this distinguished American team has been in the business for 32 years without a change of personnel: its performance of Beethoven's op. 18 no. 6 may have been its hundredth, or two-hundredth. Musically, everything was unexceptionable, but nothing exceptional - tame, tasteful, generally underplayed.

## Rattle tackles the century

Tomorrow night at 9, an adventurous series begins on Channel 4. In *Leaving Home*, seven hour-long programmes, Simon Rattle offers a "conducted tour" of 20th-century orchestral music, from Mahler, Debussy and Stravinsky to Stockhausen, Kurtág and Birtwistle. Nothing on this scale has been attempted on television before, much less in a prime-time slot. The timing is happy, for a great many viewers have just been watching Rattle conduct - superbly - the concert for the Leeds Piano Competition finals. He is fun to watch, and a great conveyor of enthusiasm. The programmes are arranged under different headings, like "Rhythm" and "Colour", and some specific historical sites: Vienna in Schoenberg's time, the distinct world of America. Pedagogy is not a threat; Rattle's eager commentary goes down easily, and mostly it hears directly upon the music we hear. That comes in substantial extracts, not snippets, and it sounds wonderful: we rarely hear music

recovered to such a standard for television.

Rattle's City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra, which he leaves in September 1996 to be replaced by Sakari Oramo, is in splendid form, and a lot of famous and well-chosen soloists join them. You may find, as I did, that you want to turn the music up much louder whenever the chat stops: there is plenty of music here that cries out to be heard in full detail.

The extracts have been chosen very carefully. There are reassuring pops from the start of the century (*L'Après-midi*, *Das Lied*, *Firebird*), and a very fair survey of what came later. "Difficult" music turns up in flattering excerpts, usually placed next to easier fare that shares significant features with it. All very palatable, and often illuminating; and many viewers will take advantage of the side-dishes - a constant. Rattle's series on Radio 3, and an extra Channel 4 programme (3 November) devoted to Stockhausen's extraordinary *Gruppen* for three orchestras.

D.M.

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Times

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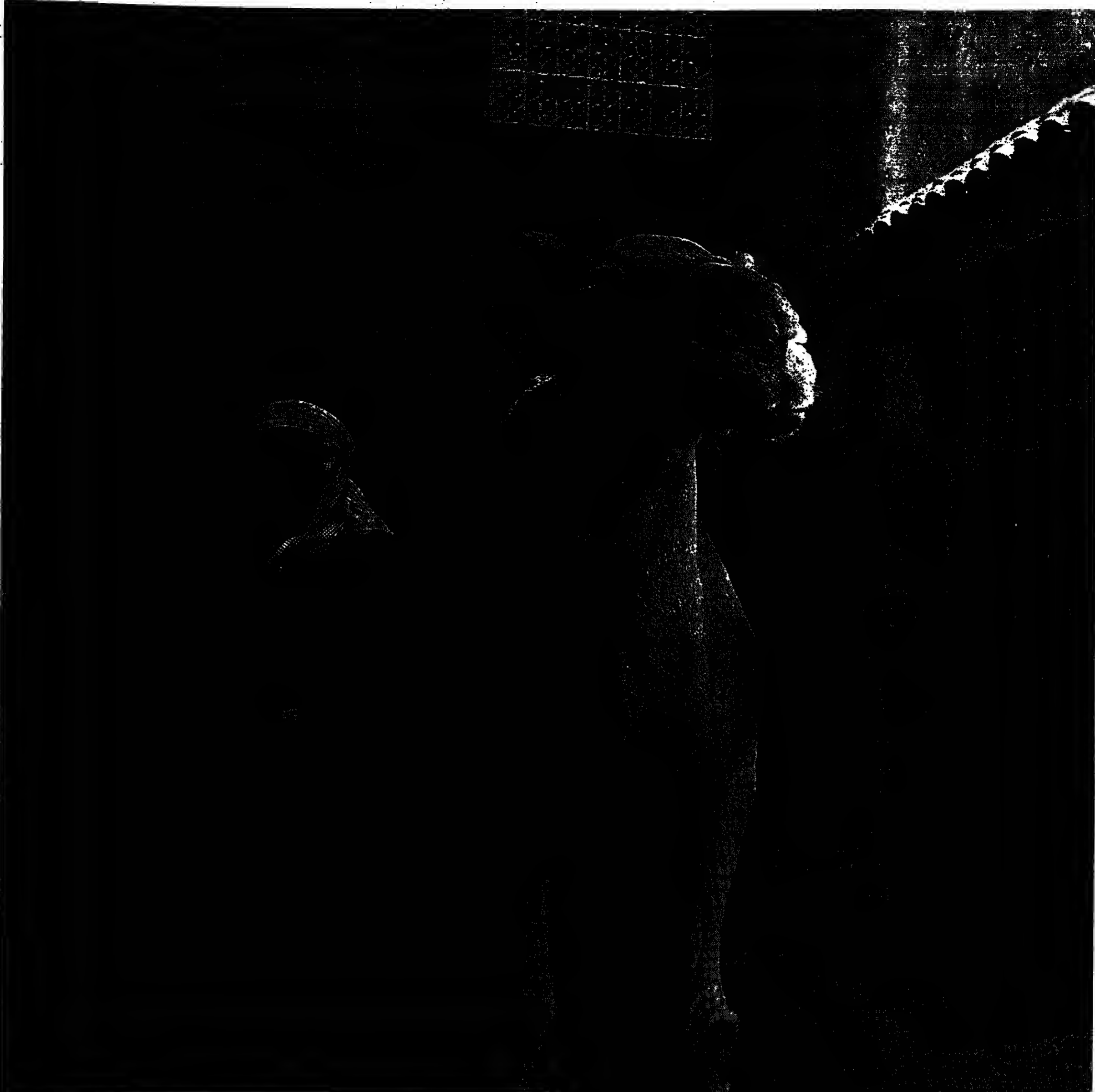
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James Morgan

# When real life intruded on the stretch limos

The rules are changing for the old monetary surgeons and backroom boys who fancied a game of finance ministers

The champagne is chilled, the lobsters boiled, the annual meetings of the World Bank and International Monetary Fund are under way. And I am almost sorry that, for the first time since I can remember, I am not there.

The occasion mixes luxury beano and stretch limos on the one hand and earnest discourse about the fate of the poor on the other. This is no paradox; it reflects what the world is really like. Make the pilgrimage there, but live like a hermit for the rest of the year, and you will

have a better idea about how the world works than by reading the average newspaper every day.

One realised that something was up in 1989 when a quiet, unassuming academic called Leszek Balcerowicz told us he was Poland's finance minister and gave a press conference that made Margaret Thatcher sound like a leftish wimp. Within six weeks the Berlin Wall had gone.

Then there were the arcane events two years ago in Madrid where a huge battle erupted. On one side was the developing world, led by the IMF's managing director, Michel Camdessus,

and on the other, the Group of Seven rich nations. The subject of this battle was one about which few cared and fewer understood: a distribution of the IMF's Special Drawing Rights, in effect upping every government's credit limits.

It ended in stalemate. Once, the US would have fixed the Latin Americans; the French told the Africans what to do and the British would let most of the Commonwealth know what was really in their interests.

The SDR clash showed that the old western-administered consensus was finished. But the news-

papers said if anybody was finished it was Camdessus. They were wrong. Camdessus saw eye-to-eye with new, rather than old, power groups but nobody called for his resignation; even the Germans saw that the world had changed. And, anyway, he reflected the wishes of the majority of members, if not the majority of the votes. For the first time the seven top nations did not get their way in what they regarded as their institution. Camdessus lost too, but was impregnable.

And how the Fund itself had changed. Once upon a time one would ring up its "information

department and expect one of two answers: "No", or "I don't know". Today it is part of a new, open, caring Fund. Not as caring as it likes to think but different from the old collection of monetary surgeons and backroom boys who fancied a game of finance ministers. Off they would go to fix Peru like 16th century Spaniards and return with their paper promises to Washington.

The World Bank has had to change even more. It is always looking for a role while the IMF is always given one. (The price of oil quadruples, Latin America goes bust, the Berlin Wall col-

lapses.) In the good old days Bank staff would tramp through the tropics shouting their orders: "Clear those bloody trees, put a highway there and plant something useful." Today the talk is of eco-friendly micro-hydro stations supplying organic electricity to networks of rural women's empowerment groups.

The great army of hangers-on changes too. Fifteen years ago they came to lead vast sums to corrupt other dictatorships. (How wonderful, they said, those no-nonsense regimes were.)

Then came the cataclysm of the 1982 meeting in Toronto

when Mexico had just stopped paying. The bankers spent the rest of the decade trying to get their money back; now they are there to get their hands on the treasures of once-poor countries under the guise of asset management schemes.

Nowhere is there such a cornucopia of deal-making, of information, of misinformation, of tedious prolixity and endless pointless statements. It may not be fun but it beats the hell out of the Internet.

James Morgan is BBC World Service economics correspondent

## Interview

# Life and the universe according to God

Clive Cookson talks to Keith Ward, Regius Professor of Divinity at Oxford and author of a new book presenting a point-by-point refutation of scientific atheism

At last, God is beginning to argue back. For several years scientific atheists have argued aggressively that religion in any form is incompatible with modern physics and biology. And their attacks have gone largely unanswered, either by theologians or by religious scientists.

This week, however, one of Britain's leading theologians, Keith Ward, publishes a "point-by-point refutation of scientific atheism". According to his book *God, Chance and Necessity*, modern science points to the existence of God as the best explanation for life, the universe and everything.

Ward is Regius Professor of Divinity at Oxford University - home also to two of Britain's most vocal atheists, the biologist Richard Dawkins and chemist Peter Atkins. He has been preparing a counter-attack since he first held a public debate on science and religion with professors Dawkins and Atkins, soon after coming to Oxford five years ago.

"They were making a big public statement, a propaganda campaign even, on the basis of the most naive forms of theology and philosophy, and that annoyed me," Ward says. "I thought someone should give a response from the same academic strength in theology as Dawkins has in biology - and no one else was doing it."

He sees Dawkins as the chief target, partly because his books from *The Selfish Gene* in 1976 to *Climbing Mount Improbable* this year have made an immense impact on public opinion, and partly because he particularly admires the intellectual "brilliance" of Dawkins. Atkins, too, Ward regards as a "superb" writer but he is cruder and more vitriolic in his attacks on religion - and therefore less effective.

It is clear from reading *God, Chance and Necessity* and from talking to Ward in his book-lined rooms on the south side of Christchurch College's Tom Quad that the argument is very much an academic one.

The book may be more accessible than Ward's eight works on theology and philosophy but it is still hard going for the non-specialist reader. He writes in a deliberately dispassionate and

rather abstract way, rich in intellectual content but lacking the profusion of telling examples and the human touch that makes Dawkins such a delight.

The argument is about how best to explain the incredible richness and variety of the universe - and above all the evolution of human consciousness and intelligence. The atheists say that an accidental, mindless process accounts for it. According to Ward: "By far the best hypothesis is that there is a cosmic mind of immense wisdom, creating a system which will shape itself to realise states of value... like the appreciation of beauty, moral action and rational understanding."

However, he rejects "naïve ideas of God as a parent who would like to eliminate all waste and randomness if he could". A random element in evolution, driven by God's underlying laws of physics, means that the outcome is not determined in advance. "Thus, a space is left for the free actions of intelligent beings, which will later be so important for the development of the cosmos."

Ward accepts the entire framework of modern science, from quantum physics to molecular genetics. But he rejects the Dawkins view that the whole of evolution can be explained through chance mutations driven by natural selection - the survival of the fittest.

The accumulation of tiny changes, directed only by mindless natural selection, could not have led to living systems as complex as the conscious human brain, Ward argues. God must have weighted the process in favour of increasing complexity.

In his book, Ward writes about a generalised God, disconnected from any particular religion. But Ward is an ordained member of the Church of England, who started his career as an atheist philosopher and became a Christian in his 30s.

Although Ward is shy about the more personal, revelatory side of his beliefs, he is happy to discuss the intellectual basis of his conversion to Christianity. "It was the manifest absurdity of the sort of philosophy I was taught: A.J. Ayer and logical positivism, which has now disappeared. The simplest way I can put it is that



Keith Ward: he argues that the accumulation of tiny changes, directed only by mindless natural selection, could not have led to living systems as complex as the conscious human brain

metaphysics came back, after a period when people had thought it was dead. Philosophers went off in various directions, and I took the theistic way," he says.

When there are so many different religions in the contemporary world, how can Ward - or anyone else - be sure that he has chosen the right one? "It's a forced option. You have to believe something and you do the best you can," Ward replies. "You have to get to know the options and think about them at their best. For most people in Britain today, Hinduism is not really an option and you can't choose to be a Jew... If you come to the view that there may be a spiritual basis for reality, then you usually choose the local group."

"But I would say that only Christianity and Judaism have adapted their views to a scientific outlook. It's more difficult for a Hindu to do that."

Ward points out that Christianity has been evolving from the start. In the first century Christ was seen as the Messiah, in the fourth

century as the cosmic being. "It's a question of re-interpretation, rather than abandonment."

What about the Resurrection? "In common with most Christian theologians in this country, I would see the Resurrection in terms of a visionary experience to a group of people. That's not science to the Bible, trying even to calculate the speed with which Jesus ascended into Heaven. I think that fundamentalism is capitulating to the materialist world view," he says.

Asked about miracles, Ward gives another lesson in religious history. "Miracle" is a post-scientific word. It does not appear in the Bible, where funny things happen all the time. The idea of breaking a law of nature is post-scientific. It shows again how science is skewing religion."

Ward does not accept the idea of God intervening to break the laws of science which God was responsible for setting in the first place. "There are limits to the sort of change that divine intelligence can bring about. I wouldn't talk about interference but about a field of influence, like field theory (in modern physics). Lots of other things can bring about change, from chance to human choice."

There is no role for the Devil as an evil anti-God in Ward's view. "The Devil is primitive mythology that

has to go," he says. "If you go back to the views held 2,000 years ago, Satan was a powerful spirit, but if you don't believe in spirits..."

Science - and the role it gives to chance and random events - helps to explain why there is so much waste and suffering in a universe created by a good God. "There could not be a universe like this, with sentient beings like us, without suffering. We must get away from the crude idea that God could have created us in a perfect universe."

Since Ward believes in a good God, he says he must logically believe in life after death. "If there is no after-life, the purpose of God would be rather indifferent to human concerns."

On this point, Ward concedes that he loses contact with scientific evidence and moves into the realm of personal belief. "The Bible prohibits trying to find out about the afterlife, and there is no theological motivation for doing experiments."

Might science eventually provide firm evidence about the nature of the human

mind and consciousness, or even about the afterlife? "I would not exclude it entirely but I think the block is conceptual rather than an empirical problem."

And what if people create intelligent machines with artificial consciousness, as some computer scientists predict? "You would have the same problem with the machine you would have to consider whether it was immortal. The Christian must believe that the conscious bit is capable of existing without the physical machine, but we are really into science fiction now."

Published by One World, £9.99

**'There could not be a universe like this, with sentient beings like us, without suffering'**

wholly without parallel in religious experience."

Ironically, Ward says, modern fundamentalist Christianity - taking the Bible as literal truth - "could not exist without science". Some fundamentalists are obsessed with applying

optimism, courage and ideals intact.

There would be the occasional malvolent Klingon (in Soviet Union) warship to deal with, but these were out-smarted by superior tactics and tighter suits.

But the good guys are thin on - and off - the ground in *The X-Files*. A dark, paranoid atmosphere pervades. A character called Deep Throat reminds us of what happened to R.N. when he stopped waxing lunar to the nation.

All is conspiratorial, strange, unresolved. The heroes of the series are pasty-faced computer-hackers, finding out things they shouldn't and getting killed by bad-mannered CIA henchmen for their troubles.

Where Kirk, Spock et al had the universe for a play-

ground, Agents Scully and Mulder doggedly pursue a tape (the eponymous X-Files) the size of a credit card. The endless possibilities of infinity have shrunk to the damning contents of a hip pocket. It is a potent metaphor for what has happened to our faith in people - real, human people, that is.

We can believe that aliens are running round our back yards, take a flier on Christ making a return visit, but never that our elected politicians can be relied upon to act with decency, nor that our self-styled spiritual leaders will not end up in sordid love triangles in the News of the World. Our need to know has been more than satiated by the media; but never has our need to believe been greater.

# A pregnant pause in benign belief

Government has let us down. Our faith in human beings needs to be restored, says Peter Aspden



Science and religion have rarely enjoyed a fruitful relationship. And why should they? This dull certainties of fact and the opaque demands of religious faith offer two contrasting models of human need. The need to know, the need to believe. They perform different functions, and one cannot be reducible to the other.

Foolish is the person who tries to compare the two.

For example: when man first set foot on the moon, even Richard Nixon, not a man easily tempted by hyperbole, was moved to declare that the landing represented "the greatest week in the history of the world

since the Creation".

Wrong, said the evangelist Billy Graham, who trumped Nixon's claim with three greater occasions: Christ's birth, Christ's death, Christ's resurrection. The piqued - and pedantic - president scribbled an instant response to his sides: "Tell Billy R.N. referred to a week, not a day".

But the distinction between rock-hard knowledge and wispy theology is disappearing before us. As science becomes more speculative, as the traditional "miracles" of the church are explained away by white coats and test-tubes rather than black robes and crucifixes, the matter of what to believe becomes more of a lottery than ever.

It was reported last week that 300 women in Britain -

not a country known for religious fervour - had taken out insurance against having a "Virgin Birth by Act of God", in expectation of a Second Coming in the year 2000. The policy promised to pay £1m in the event of such an occasion being confirmed by an independent panel of gynaecologists.

Flaky? Well, everything is relative. A further 123 people had insured against impregnation by an alien (more work, presumably, for those gynaecologists - and just think of the Sunday newspaper offers). Following the discovery of life, of sorts, on Mars, presumably it was considered a good outside bet.

Chris Carter, the executive producer of the highly successful television series *The X-Files*, said he was inspired

to get his project off the ground (as it were) by a poll which showed that 3 per cent of the American population believed they had been abducted by aliens. (I felt the same myself during the summer, but pinched myself and remembered I was watching the weight-lifting finals in Atlanta, which is, to be fair, a little like Mars.)

We are prepared, it seems, to believe anything. But the success of *The X-Files* also proves that there is one thing that simply will not wash any more: that governments are open, sincere and good for your health.

Previous science fiction series, notably *Star Trek* did little to challenge the belief that government was essentially benign.

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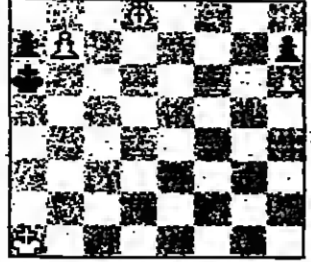
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CHESS

England began with gold medal hopes at the 127th... Chess 1996... England began with gold medal hopes at the 127th...

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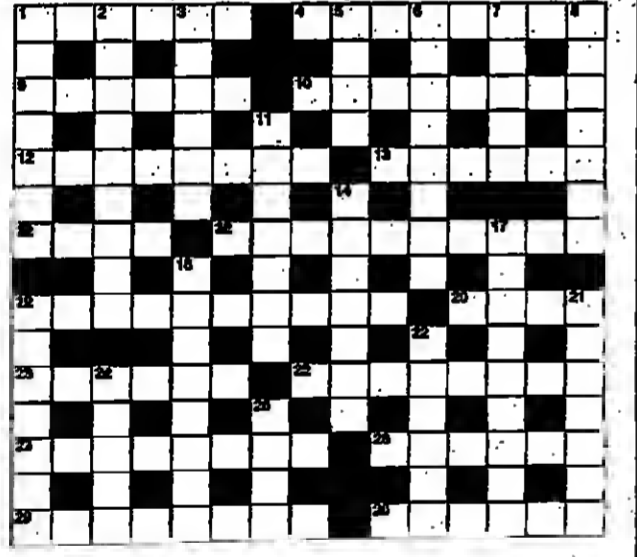
BRIDGE

Locating a missing queen is a problem all bridge players fear... Bridge 1996... Locating a missing queen is a problem all bridge players fear...

With 18pts. outstanding, my East hand was more likely to hold Q3... Bridge 1996... With 18pts. outstanding, my East hand was more likely to hold Q3...

CROSSWORD

No. 9,185 Set by CINEPHILE... Crossword 1996... No. 9,185 Set by CINEPHILE...



ACROSS 1 General called Joe? (6)... Down 1 Revolutionist embraced by friend when very thirsty (7)...

WINNERS 9,178: Dr R.M. Milne, Dechmont, West Lothian; Mrs T. Elliott, Aberystwyth, Hants; R.M. Jacks, Tisbury, Wilt; D.A. Roberts, Wegberg, Germany; Mary Robinson, Hants; D.A. Roberts, Wegberg, Germany; Mary Robinson, Hants; D.A. Roberts, Wegberg, Germany; Mary Robinson, Hants...

WEEKEND INVESTOR

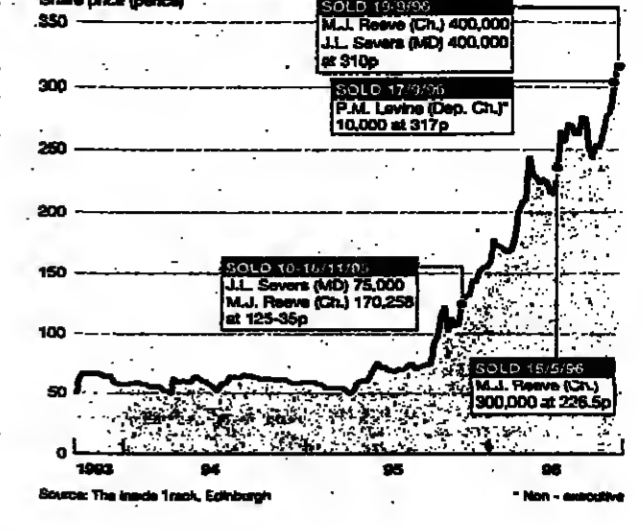
Results due next week

Table with columns: Company, Announcement date, Last year dividend, This year interim. Lists companies like Biffaward, Biffaward, Biffaward.

Last week's interim results

Table with columns: Company, Interim dividend, Last year dividend, This year interim. Lists companies like Alexon, Alexon, Alexon.

Severfield-Reeve



Directors' trading Selling outpaces buying value

Directors' trading continued in much the same vein as last week... Selling outpaces buying value...

Directors' share dealings

Table with columns: Company, Sector, Shares, Value, No. of directors. Lists transactions for various companies.

Bids/Deals

There was further consolidation in the pub industry this week... Rank offer for Tom Cobbleigh...

Rank offer for Tom Cobbleigh

There was further consolidation in the pub industry this week when Rank Organisation made a £96m (£149.76m) offer for Tom Cobbleigh...

New Issues

Boost for a sporting line

John David Sports is planning a listing which could value the retail group at more than £100m... Boost for a sporting line...

New Issues

Boost for a sporting line

John David Sports is planning a listing which could value the retail group at more than £100m... Boost for a sporting line...

Christopher Price

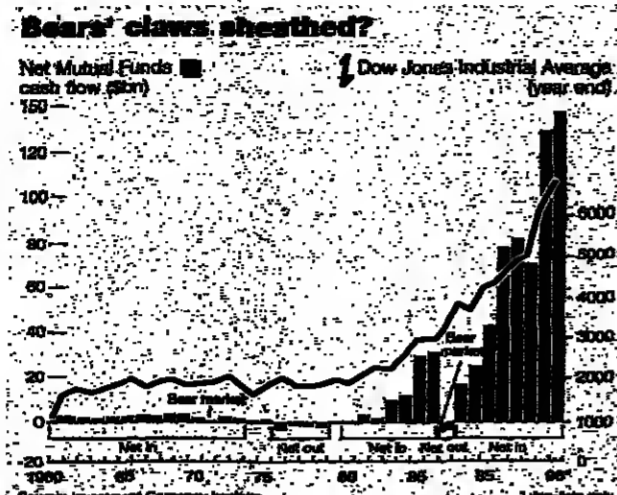
# Weekend Investor

## Wall Street

### No Armageddon for Bulls and Bears

The Fed's refusal to raise rates was a non-event, writes John Authers

It was all too familiar to aficionados of Sunday afternoon American football, one of the nation's great institutions. It started with pundit making cocksure predictions, waving their fingers on TV screens while millions watched.



Bears' claws sheathed? Net Mutual Funds Cash flow (\$bn) Dow Jones Industrial Average (year end)

By the time the game started everyone was ready for the second world war. It seemed an absurd over-reaction to the monetary non-event of the season: the Federal Reserve's decision not to raise interest rates. This was exactly what a majority of analysts had expected. But it was still greeted as though Alan Greenspan, the Fed's chairman had pronounced Armageddon.

One theory in vogue is that the huge influence of mutual funds could help put the market into a downward spiral when the correction many are predicting finally starts. The argument is that neither the small investors who hold the stocks, nor in many cases the fund managers, who tend to be what UK chancellors would call "teenage scribbles", can even remember the last sustained bear market.

A more rational analysis is possible. Initial sentiment was dominated by joy that monetary policy would not be tightened, and economic growth could continue. Then some started taking profits, while fears of more inflation after the election led others to remember that a tightening might not have been such bad news after all.

At the first sign of trouble they will bail out, on this argument, forcing a wave of sales with falling stock prices. On this view, the weight of mutual funds could help recreate the great Wall Street Crash of 1929.

But there was one safe conclusion to be drawn from all the fun and games: that the markets are extremely edgy and volatile at the moment. Despite the continuing all-time highs, and the remarkably low level of worries about political risk in an election year, traders found reasons to worry.

Fortunately history suggests this is not going to happen. Investor psychology is not to sell while the market is whizzing down, but instead to bail out when their funds are back up to the level where they started.

They are even finding reasons to be worried in one of the biggest positive factors pushing the markets - the phenomenal sums which small investors are sluicing into mutual funds (US unit trusts). Official figures this week confirmed that more than \$17bn was invested in equity funds last month, even while the market recovered from the sharp downturn of early July.

Demography is running with the mutual fund market. America's post-war "baby boomers" are approaching the last decade before retirement. Their focus is on investing for growth, and those who paid for their children's education have some catching up to do.

## London

### Loitering as no birds sing

Philip Coggan reflects on a nothing week

John Cage produced a musical work comprising nothing but silence. Andy Warhol directed a film of a man asleep. And this was the week in world stock markets when nothing happened.

Investors waited breathlessly for the outcome of the Federal Reserve's open market committee meeting on Tuesday.

Many thought the Fed would raise US interest rates by a quarter of a percentage point, some feared as much as a half point rise. But the Fed did nothing (and gave no explanation, either). Either way, you could see this as a tribute to pioneering artists such as Cage or Warhol. If you are charitable, you could say that the silence after the meeting was actually a performance of Cage's *magnum opus*, if you are grudging, you might feel that the Fed was asleep on the inflationary watch.

between Kenneth Clarke, the chancellor, and Eddie George, governor of the Bank of England, also passed off without incident, although this was less of a surprise. The economy is clearly accelerating, but it would be a brave politician who raised rates so close to an election.

Stock markets reacted with initial relief to the lack of news, although not with unalloyed joy. Rates will have to rise on both sides of the Atlantic sooner or later. The FTSE 100 index fell sharply ahead of the Fed meeting, losing touch with the 4,000 level in the process, and failed to make up all of the lost ground in the later part of the week.

Nevertheless, it looks set to end the quarter with a 200 point gain; the UK market will thus have risen for nine successive quarters, its longest upward run since the second world war. It is tempting to look for

longer term explanations for why world stock markets, and in particular those in the US, have been so buoyant in recent years.

One view is to say that economic trends have moved in favour of financial assets, partly because of the dramatic drop in inflation and partly because reformed employment markets have meant that capital has gained at the expense of labour.

The more pessimistic view is that the markets are indulging in one of their periodic bouts of losing touch with reality. Rather like cartoon characters who keep running once they have passed over a cliff edge, they can walk on air for a while but eventually they come crashing back to earth.

A reader from Liverpool, Eric Woehrling, has written with an interesting argument comparing the current buoyant stock market conditions with the UK housing



Was this the week when the Fed went to sleep? Philip Coggan

### Banks are in the money

FTSE-A Real bank sector relative to the FTSE-A All-Share Index. The chart shows a steady upward trend from 1994 to 1996, with a notable dip in early 1996.

Table titled 'Highlights of the week' listing various stock indices and company shares with their respective values and changes.

boom of the late 1980s. The US market's rise, he argues, is fuelled by the purchases of mutual funds (the US equivalent of unit trusts) by private investors; "Joe Sixpack is using cheap money to buy shares rather than consumer goods."

While such investors are not specifically borrowing to invest in mutual funds, they still have high debts elsewhere, which they are using to finance their lifestyles. This bubble, Woehrling believes, will burst, just as the housing boom did.

There are certainly a few signs that the 1980s good life is returning, in the UK, at least. The housing market is recovering, sales of luxury goods are improving and even the art market is on the rebound.

Eventually, these conditions are likely to lead to inflation in a more recognisable form - on the high street. But it has to be said there are precious few signs of inflationary pressure at the moment, and even those who argue that interest rates should go up in the US and the UK do not believe they need to rise by very much.

In the absence of an inflationary shock, the UK market appears to be well supported for the moment. The results season has passed off with few alarms: ABN-Amro Hoare Govett found that, of 57 large non-financial companies reporting figures, 31 were above forecast, 15 were in line and just 11 below expectations.

The financial sector has been particularly strong. Banks, in addition to

announcing good results, have been pleasing the market with share buy-back programmes. The banking sector has outperformed the FTSE-A All-Share by more than 14 per cent since the start of May.

The buoyant performance of banks, together with other "large cap" sectors such as oil and pharmaceuticals, partly helps to explain why Footsie has been much stronger than the other UK indices.

The FTSE Mid 250 index is still more than 150 points below its all-time high, reached in April and the Small-Cap index is well short of the 2,244.86 high, recorded in June.

This lack of breadth in the market is a potential concern, since a narrowly focused rally is less likely to be sustainable. Only 73 stocks made new 52 week highs on Wednesday, for example, compared with more than 450 in April, when Footsie was at 3,850.

The failure of any of the rumoured mega-bids to turn into reality is another worry for the bulls; how often can the whispers about Zeneca (or yesterday's favourite Cadbury Schweppes) be repeated without losing all credibility?

For the moment, however, earnings are strong, liquidity is buoyant and interest rates are stable. There is no obvious reason for the market to drop substantially, but then sometimes one never spots the edge of the cliff until it is too late.



Barry Riley

### Performance and paradox

A postcard from Barcelona is worthy of analysis

Do 500 or so investment analysts amount to a herd, a consensus or a diverse collection of unique individuals? This week's column is by way of a postcard from Barcelona, from the congress of the European Financial Analysts' Federation. The fund managers have been sharing common ideas; but they will only outperform if they dare to be different.

Investment is riddled with paradoxes. For instance, the better the flow of information and analysis, the more difficult it is for any individual to shine. Again, the temptation is for the client to pick the best-performing fund manager, but you can present a logical case for choosing the worst.

Investment performance arises from a thoroughly confusing mixture of skill and chance. Imagine for a moment that investment is simply a coin-tossing exercise. Start with 32 fund managers and half will be ahead of the average after a year. After two years, eight will have shown two successive years of superior performance. After five years, the odds are that just one will be left with a record of beating the average (or the index) every year. He will boast of his

track record and promote himself heavily. But his luck may be just about to run out. In Barcelona this week, Arnold Wood, who runs the US investment firm Martingale Asset Management, gave the hypothetical example of a so-called "market timing" manager who makes just two important decisions each year on whether the market is too high or low. A good manager is considered to be one who is right 55 per cent of the time. On this basis, it will take 160 years to be statistically certain whether such a fund manager is adding value. This is an extreme case, but it certainly takes years to be sure whether a portfolio manager has real skill. And even when his talent has been established you do not know whether that skill will persist. Simply to measure performance requires the choice of a benchmark - usually an index, but also sometimes the average performance of a peer group of similar funds. The easiest way for a manager to outperform is to take some sort of risk against the benchmark. This is what Peter Young did at Morgan Grenfell European Growth Trust by putting heavily in unlisted technology stocks. Usually, however,

benchmarks have the quite opposite effect of driving risk-averse managers into conformity. But conformity with what? There can be curious results when quite different benchmarks apply. For instance, the global equity portfolios of US pension funds are usually benchmarked against a

The easiest way to outperform is to take a risk against the benchmark

world index, whereas UK funds measure themselves against each other. At the moment Wall Street has a weighting of about 45 per cent in the world index, in recognition of its high aggregate value, but the US market is so distrusted by British managers that it only represents about 15 per cent of their global portfolios. They badly need to be proved right soon. There has been much talk about the decision of Tony Dye, investment director of the UK pension fund managers PIFM, to reduce his firm's holding of equities. But the

whole UK investment community is taking a much bigger gamble, underweighting Wall Street to such a degree. If London's global fund managers turn out, over several years, to have badly misjudged the world's most important equity market, their collective ability to add value will be in serious question.

Because such decisions about investment fundamentals are so difficult to get right, and so dangerous to get wrong, the search is on for alternative strategies. It may be possible, for instance, to exploit the behavioural psychology of other investors. Thus they may be over-sensitive to risks of loss; this can happen because pension fund trustees tend to be far more critical of their fund managers over each risky investment which fails than they will be congratulatory about others which double or triple in value.

In fact, this is the theoretical basis of the so-called "value" investing style, as practised by Tony Dye and others. The idea is that stocks which appear very cheap - on earnings, say, or assets per share - are inexpensive because they are shunned by risk-averse investors. On a prudently diversified basis,

therefore, they are likely to give above-average returns. At the same time, fashionable, high-rated stocks are likely to become overpriced because many investors will be dazzled by their glamour.

Unfortunately, this theory has not worked at all well in the recent past. Value investors must beware of the possibility that markets as a whole can be overpriced for extended periods, perhaps more than five years. It happened in the 1960s, for instance, and may be happening again in the 1990s. As for individual stocks, it could be that the simple value style does not distinguish adequately between reversible and irreversible corporate decline.

When the likes of British Gas, Hanson, BT and British Telecom are suffering a permanent loss of shareholder value, value investors must beware; perhaps another layer of analysis and screening is required.

The analysts were left to ponder on Arnold Wood's closing equation: conformity minus costs equals mediocrity. But mediocrity can still be well-paid. Perhaps Peter Young would have done better to settle for it.

Advertisement for Guinness Flight: THE 21st CENTURY BELONGS TO ASIA. MAKE SURE A BIT OF ASIA BELONGS TO YOU. Includes contact information and a coupon form.

Offshore managed funds and UK managed funds are listed in Section One

منظمات التمويل

FT MANAGED FUNDS SERVICE

Authorised and Insurances

FT Cityline Unit Trust Prices are available over the telephone. Call the FT Cityline Help Desk on (444 171) 673 4378 for more details.

Table of financial data for various UK Unit Trusts, including columns for fund names, dates, and prices.

Table of financial data for various International Unit Trusts, including columns for fund names, dates, and prices.

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INSURANCES

Table of insurance policies and providers, including details on life, health, and general insurance.

Insurances, Money Markets and Other

FT MANAGED FUNDS SERVICE

FT Cityline Unit Trust Prices are available over the telephone. Call the FT Cityline Help Desk on (+44 171) 878 4378 for more details.

Money Market Trust Funds

Table listing Money Market Trust Funds with columns for Fund Name, Price, and other details.

Money Market Bank Accounts

Table listing Money Market Bank Accounts with columns for Bank Name, Account Type, and Interest Rate.

Table listing various insurance and financial products under the 'Insurances, Money Markets and Other' section.

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MANAGEMENT SERVICES

Table listing Management Services with columns for Service Name, Description, and Contact Information.

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Offshore Funds and Insurances

FT MANAGED FUNDS SERVICE

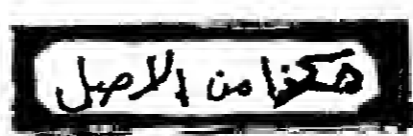
FT Cityline Unit Trust Prices: data 0091 430010 and key in a 6 digit code listed below. Calls are charged at 39p/minute cheap rate and 46p/minute at all other times. International access available by subscription only. For more details call the FT Cityline Help Desk on (44 171) 673 4878.

LUXEMBOURG (SIB RECOGNISED)

Main table containing fund names, ISIN codes, and prices for various offshore funds and insurances. Includes sections for Luxembourg (SIB Recognised), Offshore Funds, and Insurances.

LUXEMBOURG (REGULATED)

Table containing regulated Luxembourg fund names, ISIN codes, and prices.





FT MANAGED FUNDS SERVICE

Offshore Insurances and Other Funds

FT Cityline Unit Trust Prices are available over the telephone. Call the FT Cityline Help Desk on (444 171) 873 4378 for more details.

Main table containing fund names, prices, and performance metrics. Includes sections for 'OTHER OFFSHORE FUNDS' and 'MANAGED FUNDS NOTES'.

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Highs & Lows shown on a 52 week basis

WORLD STOCK MARKETS

NORTH AMERICA

United States Sep 27/US\$

(In millions)

Table of North America stock market data including Dow Jones, S&P 500, and various regional indices.

EUROPE

London Sep 27/£

(In millions)

Table of European stock market data including FTSE 100 and other regional indices.

ASIA

Tokyo Sep 27/¥

(In millions)

Table of Asian stock market data including Nikkei 225 and other regional indices.

AUSTRALIA

Sydney Sep 27/A\$

(In millions)

Table of Australian stock market data including All Ordinaries and other regional indices.

AFRICA

South Africa Sep 27/Rand

(In millions)

Table of African stock market data including All Share and other regional indices.

AMSTERDAM

Amsterdam Sep 27/guilder

(In millions)

Table of Amsterdam stock market data including AEX and other regional indices.

STOCKS

Various international stock market data.

BONDS

Various international bond market data.

CURRENCY

Various international currency exchange rates.

COMMODITIES

Various international commodity prices.

INDEXES

Summary of various international stock indices.

US INDICES

Detailed US market indices including Dow Jones, S&P 500, and others.

AFRICA

South African market indices and data.

PACIFIC

Pacific region market indices and data.

AMSTERDAM

Dutch market indices and data.

Advertisement for Rockwell: 'From automotive to automation, Rockwell gets your business moving' with Rockwell logo.

Large table of international stock market data with columns for country, index name, and price/percentage change.

Table of US market indices including Dow Jones, S&P 500, and various sector indices.

Table of African market indices, primarily focusing on the All Share index in South Africa.

Table of Pacific and Amsterdam market indices.

Footnote and disclaimer text regarding the accuracy and use of the market data provided.

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WORLD STOCK MARKETS

US equities mixed at midsession Pollsters beaten to the punch in Greece

AMERICAS US shares were mixed at midsession as the Dow Jones Industrial Average posted a modest loss to cap a week that saw the blue-chip index come close to breaching the 5,900 level, writes Lisa Bransford in New York.

At 1pm the Dow Jones Industrial Average was off 6.29 at 5,882.56, the Standard & Poor's 500 slipped 0.52 at 665.94 and the American Stock Exchange composite lost 0.30 at 659.99. NYSE volume came to 283.6m shares.

Technology shares were also mixed. The Nasdaq composite, which is about 40 per cent technology shares, advanced 1.49 at 1,229.47, while the Pacific Stock Exchange technology index slipped 0.4 per cent.

Among individual shares, Providence Journal jumped 89% or 42 per cent at \$297 on news that A. E. Belo had agreed to sell the media company for \$1.5bn in cash and stock. Belo shares slipped 82% or 7 per cent at \$34 on the news.

Whirlpool shed 82% or 4 per cent at \$49 after announcing that it expected third quarter operating earnings to be 35 to 40 per cent below those from the comparable period last year.

TORONTO steadied in early trading after Thursday's steep slide. At noon, the 300 composite index was off 0.66 at 5,308.96.

Among the blue chips, Alcan dipped 35 cents to C\$40.95 and Imperial Oil shed 55 cents to C\$67.70. Seagram gained 45 cents to C\$61.85.

CARACAS streaked higher for a sixth consecutive session as foreign mutual funds and domestic investors maintained their heavy demand. By midsession, the Merinvest index was up 285.49 or 5.5 per cent at 5,461.53.

SOUTH AFRICA Shares in Johannesburg continued to drift lower. The overall index closed off 1.4 at 4,883.1. Industrials dipped 1.43 to 4,178.3 while gold fell 18.1 to 1,097.

Dealers described the session as active. The weaker bullion price pulled golds lower and there was no shortage of end-of-quarter factors with unit trusts squaring their books for September.

The company said yesterday that earnings for the full year would likely be about 10 cents a share below the analysts' consensus.

Ben & Jerry's Homemade, the premium ice cream maker, lost 8% or 8 per cent at \$124 after announcing that its chief executive would resign at the end of October.

Paris stocks volatile as Milan climbs

A mixed session left PARIS modestly higher but there was individual volatility as the CAC-40 index finished up 2.91 at 2,107.06.

Alcatel Alsthom, up strongly on Thursday following an upbeat trading statement, gained a further 1.29 to FF430 to head the CAC-40 performance charts. LVMH, rebounding from earlier losses, was close behind with a rise of FF41.0 to FF1,099.

Shares, bonds and the lira all responded positively to the government's apparent determination to adhere to strict financial discipline, designed to put the country on track to join a single European currency.

At 13.37Z, reflecting the view that the budget would encourage further foreign demand for the stocks.

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Hong Kong hits 31-month high

Advances led declines by 773 to 306 with 174 unchanged. In London, the ISE/Nikkei 50 index fell 0.94 to 1,460.57.

Investors were encouraged by the year's weakness and budget-oriented manufacturers.

The All Ordinaries index ended up 8.6 at 2,283.0.

BANKOKY finished slightly higher on late bargain hunting by speculators on the eve of a deadline for the prime minister's resignation.

FT/SP ACTUARIES WORLD INDICES

Table with columns for Country, Index, % Change, and other financial metrics. Includes entries for Australia, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, Mexico, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Singapore, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, United Kingdom, USA, and various European and Asian regions.

LONDON EQUITIES

BRITISH FUNDS 40 5 12 201 84 50 Other Fund Interest 0 0 14 8 1 61 Mineral Extraction 34 84 79 180 300 411

On Friday 12 10 14 14 14 14 On the week 12 10 14 14 14 14

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FT GOLD MINES INDEX

Table with columns for Gold Mine Index, % Change, and other financial metrics for various gold mining companies.

RIGHTS OFFERS

Table listing rights offers for various companies, including issue size, price, and dates.

FINANCIAL TIMES EQUITY INDICES

Table showing equity indices for various countries and regions, including ordinary shares, P/E ratios, and dividend yields.

TRADEPOINT INVESTMENT EXCHANGE

Table listing trade point investment exchange data, including volume and average prices.

LONDON STOCK EXCHANGE - DEALINGS

Details of business done shown below have been taken with consent from last Thursday's Stock Exchange Official List and should not be reproduced without permission. The data is now delivered by Exel, part of Financial Times Information. Details relate to those securities not included in the FT Share Information Services. The prices are those at which the business was done in the 24 hours up to 5.15pm on Thursday, they are not in order of execution but in ascending order which denotes the day's highest and lowest trades. For those securities in which no business was recorded in Thursday's Official List, the latest recorded business in the four previous days is given with the relevant date. # Bargains at special prices. \* Bargains done the previous day.

Table listing various financial instruments including British Funds, Corporate and County Stocks, Foreign Stocks, Bonds, and Debt Issuance Programs. Includes entries like 'British Funds, etc', 'Corporate and County Stocks', 'Foreign Stocks, Bonds etc.', 'Debt Issuance Programs', and 'Sterling Issues by Overseas Borrowers'.

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FINANCIAL SERVICES

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Advertisement for WWF (World Wide Fund for Nature) titled 'FOR THE SAKE OF THE CHILDREN WE GAVE THEM A NURSERY'. Features a large image of a forest. Text: 'Unless help is given, soil is exhausted very quickly by "slash and burn" farming methods. New tracts of tropical forest would then have to be cleared every two or three years. This unnecessary destruction can be prevented by combining modern techniques with traditional practices so that the same plot of land can be used to produce crops over and over again. In La Paznada, Colombia, our experimental farm demonstrates how these techniques can be used to grow a family's food on a small four hectare plot. (Instead of clearing the usual ten hectares of forest.) WWF fieldworkers are now involved in over 100 tropical forest projects in 45 countries around the world. The idea behind all of this work is that the use of natural resources should be sustainable. WWF is calling for the rate of deforestation in the tropics to be halved by 1995, and for there to be no net deforestation by the end of the century. Write to the Membership Officer at the address below to find out how you can help us ensure that this generation does not continue to steal nature's capital from the next. It could be with a donation, or, appropriately enough, a legacy.' Includes WWF logo and contact information: WWF World Wide Fund for Nature (formerly World Wildlife Fund), International Secretariat, 1196 Gland, Switzerland.

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LONDON STOCK EXCHANGE

Share prices edge higher in cautious trading

MARKET REPORT By Steve Thompson, UK Stock Market Editor

A late sell-off in gilts, along with other European bonds, plus a confident opening by Wall Street, took some of the shine off a generally confident UK equity market yesterday.

second line stocks, however, with the FT-SE Mid 250 index closing a mere 1.3 firmer at 4,062.

Over the week, which has witnessed two big monetary policy making meetings in the US and the UK, both of which saw interest rates left unaltered, the FT-SE 100 has fallen by 17.7 points and the Mid 250 by 22.

But UK markets have been wary of talk of overvaluation in the US and elsewhere. UK equity strategists were generally cautious about the interest rate decisions. "The shocks as far as the market was concerned came from across the Atlantic, where the market had been confident that an upward nudge in US

forces behind London's upward move. In the latter sector, Zeneca, Glaxo Wellcome and SmithKline Beecham were heavily bought overnight in the US and continued to make progress in London.

Oil shares, meanwhile, responded to the deteriorating political situation in the Middle East, which traditionally prompts a shift into the sector.

The daily dose of takeover stories in London included Royal Bank of Scotland, House of Fraser and Cadbury Schweppes. Turnover in equities at 6pm was 626m shares. Customer business on Thursday was worth £1.85bn.

TRADING VOLUME IN MAJOR STOCKS

Table with columns: Stock Name, Vol. (000s), Closing Price, Daily % Change. Lists major UK stocks like ASDA Group, Abbey National, Adair, etc.

EQUITY FUTURES AND OPTIONS TRADING

Table with columns: Stock Name, Vol. (000s), Closing Price, Daily % Change. Lists equity futures and options trading data.

BT falls on 'deal' too far

By Peter John and Joel Kibazo. A feeling that British Telecommunications may have become over-ambitious with its latest overseas deal swept through the market yesterday, sending the shares into retreat.

SmithKline Beecham improved 16% to 77p.

Between them, they accounted for about 8 points of the FT-SE 100's rise yesterday. The poor opening on Wall Street, which saw the Dow Jones Industrial Average drop almost 100 points, was also a factor.

FT-SE 100 Index

Table showing FT-SE 100 Index performance: FT-SE 100 Index, FT-SE 100 All-Share, FT-SE 100 Non-Fin p/e, etc.

CHIEF PRICE CHANGES YESTERDAY

Table listing price changes for various companies: London (Pence), Rise, Automotive Precision, British Biotech, etc.

NEW 52 WEEK HIGHS AND LOWS

Table listing 52-week high and low prices for various companies: NEW 52 WEEK HIGHS AND LOWS.

FT-SE Actuaries Share Indices

Table showing FT-SE Actuaries Share Indices: FT-SE 100, FT-SE Mid 250, FT-SE 100 Higher Yield, etc.

The UK Scores

Table showing UK Scores: FT-SE 100, FT-SE Mid 250, FT-SE 100 Higher Yield, etc.

FT-SE Actuaries All-Share

Table showing FT-SE Actuaries All-Share: FT-SE 100, FT-SE Mid 250, FT-SE 100 Higher Yield, etc.

Hourly movements

Table showing Hourly movements: FT-SE 100, FT-SE Mid 250, FT-SE 100 Higher Yield, etc.

FT-SE Actuaries 350 Industry baskets

Table showing FT-SE Actuaries 350 Industry baskets: Ship & Cranes, Pharmaceuticals, Water, Banks, Retail, etc.

IN INDONESIA WE PROTECT THE RAINFORREST WITH FISH

WWF project in over a hundred fish ponds built in the rain forest in central Indonesia. The fish ponds being built are used for the local community.

THE ZINC CORPORATION PLC

ANNOUNCES THE ISSUE OF 1.2m SHARES AT £0.50. DEALINGS BEGAN ON 27th SEPTEMBER, 1996 ON OXFEX.

Hourly movements

Table showing Hourly movements: FT-SE 100, FT-SE Mid 250, FT-SE 100 Higher Yield, etc.

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Hourly movements

Table showing Hourly movements: FT-SE 100, FT-SE Mid 250, FT-SE 100 Higher Yield, etc.



LONDON SHARE SERVICE

INV TRUSTS SPLIT CAPITAL - Cont.

Table with columns for company names, share prices, and other financial data under the 'INV TRUSTS SPLIT CAPITAL' category.

OTHER INVESTMENT TRUSTS

Table listing various investment trusts with their respective share prices and market movements.

INVESTMENT COMPANIES

Table listing investment companies, including their share prices and recent performance.

LEISURE & HOTELS

Table listing companies in the leisure and hotels sector with their share prices.

LEISURE & HOTELS - Cont.

Table continuing the list of leisure and hotels companies.

LIFE ASSURANCE

Table listing life assurance companies and their share prices.

OIL EXPLORATION & PRODUCTION

Table listing oil exploration and production companies.

OIL, INTEGRATED

Table listing integrated oil companies.

OTHER FINANCIAL

Table listing other financial companies.

PAPER, PACKAGING & PRINTING - Cont.

Table continuing the list of paper, packaging, and printing companies.

PHARMACEUTICALS

Table listing pharmaceutical companies.

PROPERTY

Table listing property companies.

PROPERTY - Cont.

Table continuing the list of property companies.

RETAILERS, FOOD

Table listing retailers and food companies.

RETAILERS, GENERAL

Table listing general retailers.

SUPPORT SERVICES

Table listing support services companies.

SUPPORT SERVICES - Cont.

Table continuing the list of support services companies.

TELECOMMUNICATIONS - Cont.

Table continuing the list of telecommunications companies.

TEXTILES & APPAREL

Table listing textiles and apparel companies.

TOBACCO

Table listing tobacco companies.

TRANSPORT

Table listing transport companies.

WATER

Table listing water utility companies.

AIM

Table listing companies on the Alternative Investment Market (AIM).

AM - Cont.

Table continuing the list of American companies.

AMERICANS

Table listing American companies.

CANADIANS

Table listing Canadian companies.

SOUTH AFRICANS

Table listing South African companies.

GUIDE TO LONDON SHARE SERVICE

Prices for the London Share Service (delivered by email, part of Financial Times Information). Company classifications are based on those used for the FT-SE 100 and FT-SE 250. Symbols referring to dividend status appear in the table column daily as a guide to yields and P/E ratios. Dividends and dividend cover are published on Monday.

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